

SUMMARY

Starting from the topic addressed and the general purpose of the research, the doctoral thesis entitled "**EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE ALLOCATION OF NON-REFUNDABLE PUBLIC FUNDS ON THE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY OF THE WINE CHAIN**" is structured in five well-defined chapters. Each chapter addresses a specific dimension of the issue, allowing for a detailed and complex analysis of the impact of non-reimbursable public funds on the economic, social and technological development of the wine chain. This methodological organization facilitates the understanding of both current challenges and the substantiation of scientific solutions that can support the progress of the wine chain.

The first chapter of the thesis, entitled "**The conceptual framework regarding the wine chain**", offers a perspective on the role and functioning of this sector in the contemporary economy. The theoretical substantiation begins by defining the wine sector, including the distinctive characteristics that differentiate it from other agricultural branches. Both the economic contributions of the sector (such as generating income and jobs) and its social role are analyzed, with an emphasis on preserving local traditions and developing regional identity. These elements contribute to a clear understanding of the context in which the wine sector evolves and adapts to global requirements. Another aspect addressed in this chapter is the analysis of the historical importance of the wine sector in Romania. The Romanian wine tradition, which dates back thousands of years, illustrates the continuity and adaptability of this sector under the influence of various political, economic and social contexts. This historical perspective helps to identify the major transformations that have shaped the sector, providing a frame of reference for current challenges, such as modernization and increasing competitiveness on the international market. By exploring historical stages, the opportunities and limitations that influence the contemporary development of the wine sector are highlighted.

The second chapter, entitled "**Analysis of the Romanian wine chain**", brings to the fore the structure and functioning of the wine sector at the national level, providing a comprehensive analysis of the domestic market and the mechanisms that determine its integration into the global economy. The study begins by examining the architecture of the wine chain, identifying the main actors involved, including, mainly, producers, distributors and consumers of wine products. This chapter highlights the interdependencies between these actors and how these interdependencies influence the overall dynamics of the market, as well

as the positioning of Romanian wine products internationally. This approach contributes to a better understanding of the strengths and vulnerabilities of the wine chain in our country. This chapter also analyzes the domestic wine market, highlighting current consumption trends and consumer preferences, which are important for adapting the producers' offer. Changes in consumer behavior, determined by economic, demographic and cultural factors, influence production and distribution strategies. At the same time, this chapter of the paper explores the role of wine tourism as a promoter of local wines and as a regional development tool. Following the analyses carried out, the conclusion is drawn that, by associating tourist experiences with wine tastings and promoting local traditions, wine tourism contributes to creating an authentic image of Romanian products, thus increasing their attractiveness on domestic and foreign markets.

The third chapter, entitled "**Analysis of the competitiveness of the horticultural sector**", offers an integrated perspective on the positioning of the wine sector within the broader framework of the horticultural sector in Romania. Through this approach, the complex relationships between horticultural sectors, such as those dedicated to the production of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants, are highlighted, and their differences and complementarities are analyzed. This framework allows for a better understanding of the common resources, challenges and opportunities that determine the competitiveness of each sector, while also highlighting the specificities of the wine sector. In the case of the wine sector, natural resources, such as climatic conditions and fertile soils, represent a competitive advantage, but regional differences in access to modern infrastructure and technology significantly influence performance. This chapter also explores how policies to align with the European market influence the competitiveness of the horticultural sector, including the wine sector. European standards in terms of quality, traceability and sustainability impose strict requirements, but also offer opportunities for producers through access to larger and more diversified markets. The comparative analysis between agri-food product chains highlights how each of them responds to these requirements, highlighting the strengths and vulnerabilities of the wine sector in this context. This comparison also reveals the impact of non-reimbursable public funds, which were used to modernize the infrastructure and adapt the Romanian wine sector to European standards.

By comparing the competitiveness of the wine sector with other horticultural sectors, the author of the paper provides a clear picture of the position of this sector in the national economy. This approach allows the identification of areas in which the wine sector can benefit from intersectoral collaborations and the adaptation of best practices from other subsectors.

At the same time, the analyses carried out in this chapter highlight the need for policies better adapted to the specifics of each sector, in order to stimulate sustainable and competitive development in the long term. This detailed examination provides a valuable context for the following chapters, which address the impact of public funds on the economic performance of the wine sector.

The fourth chapter, entitled "Evaluation of the impact of the allocation of non-reimbursable public funds on economic efficiency in the wine chain", constitutes the central part of the research, within which theoretical analysis is combined with the application of quantitative methods and case studies. This chapter presents a theoretical framework that defines the concepts and indicators relevant for measuring economic efficiency, such as gross value added (GVA), productivity and sustainability. This framework provides the necessary basis for interpreting the results and for drawing pertinent conclusions regarding the use of non-reimbursable funds in the Romanian wine sector. The analysis of the mechanisms for allocating public funds is another important component of this chapter. The selection criteria, administrative procedures and regional differences in the absorption of funds are examined, highlighting the challenges faced by wine producers. The case study on the eight development regions in Romania allows the identification of disparities and local factors that influence the way in which national and European funds allocated to the wine sector are used to increase the competitiveness of the sector. The chapter integrates a mathematical multiple regression model, used to quantify the relationship between independent variables (such as allocated funds, modernized area and organic certifications) and dependent variables (such as gross value added and economic sustainability). The model used allows for a rigorous assessment of the impact of non-reimbursable funds, being complemented by validation techniques, such as sensitivity analyses and cross-validation. These methods ensure the stability of estimates and reduce the risk of erroneous interpretations of the data. The results obtained by applying the applied model provide valuable insights into the efficiency of the funds and opportunities for their optimization.

The fifth chapter, entitled "**Solutions for increasing the efficiency of the wine sector under sustainable development conditions**", focuses on identifying and proposing practical measures to support the modernization of the wine sector and ensure its long-term competitiveness. Through an integrated approach, the chapter analyzes both economic and social and environmental aspects, offering recommendations for a more efficient use of non-reimbursable public funds. These solutions are correlated with international trends and the specific requirements of export markets, emphasizing the importance of adapting the wine

sector to a constantly changing environment. The chapter also addresses the role of government policies in supporting the sustainability of the sector, highlighting the need for clear legislative measures and more consistent financial support for the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies and for obtaining organic certifications for the wine sector. It also highlights the importance of creating public-private partnerships to support both small and large producers in the transition to more sustainable practices. These measures include simplifying procedures for accessing funds, organizing training programs for winegrowers, and creating mechanisms to monitor progress in implementing sustainable solutions.

Keywords: supply chain, efficiency, grants, sustainable development