



BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES

Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD)

Doctoral School of International Business and Economics

International Business and Economics Domain

SUMMARY OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND COMPETITIVENESS IN FINANCIAL MARKETS AND IN BUSINESS – PERSPECTIVES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

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SUMMARY

The habilitation thesis *“Innovation, Sustainability and Competitiveness in Financial Markets and in Business – Perspectives at International Level”* presents the main professional achievements obtained after the conferral of the PhD title and the plans for career evolution and development. The thesis follows a classic structure: the summaries in Romanian and English, an introduction, two main sections (the first presenting professional achievements and the second presenting the plans for career evolution and development), and the bibliographic references. The two main sections are consolidated around the three major dimensions of the academic career: **the scientific dimension, the academic dimension, and the professional dimension.**

Within **Section I. Innovation, Sustainability and Competitiveness in Financial Markets and in Business at International Level. Coordinates in Scientific, Professional and Academic Achievements**, the personal contributions are presented, in a logical manner, **connected by a thread consolidated at scientific level – Innovation-Sustainability-Competitiveness** – considering **(research) thematic directions** associated with areas in **the field of International Business and Economics, according to my own scientific research, teaching, academic, and professional interests** (International Financial Markets, Risk Management in Business at International Level and Business Management at International Level).

The first three chapters of Section I detail, at the level of scientific activities, the achievements that have emerged from the interests for topical issues in international research such as sustainability, innovation and competitiveness within international financial markets, within risk management in business at international level and within business management at international level. Each of these chapters is similarly structured, essentially presenting:

- some general considerations regarding the scientific area addressed at chapter level, and a selection of the most relevant scientific works that substantiated the achievements.
- the main results obtained and disseminated through **8 scientific works that correspond to the criteria related to the necessary and mandatory minimum national standards for the conferral of the habilitation certificate**, relevantly allotted in each chapter by their respective themes. These works refer to:
 - **four articles published in ISI rated journals with a non-zero absolute influence score (AIS)**, of which **three articles** are published in ISI rated journals with absolute influence

score (AIS) higher than 0.15 and **three articles** are published in ISI rated journals from the Core Economics area.

- **one book published by a national publishing house of recognized prestige.**
- **two chapters in books published by a national publishing house of recognized prestige.**
- **one article published in an ISI Proceedings volume.**
- **other results of the scientific research activities** relevant to the theme of the thesis.
- **a synthesis of the main elements of originality and relevance** regarding my own scientific contributions, including a selection of citations of the works. In this regard, I mention that, at the time of writing the thesis, the value of the Hirsch index (H-Index) associated with the citations of my own scientific works, according to those published on the Web of Science platform, has a value of three.

Chapter 4 complements the exposition by highlighting the most important contributions associated with the activities within the of academic and professional dimensions. It also emphasizes aspects related to the theme of the habilitation thesis from the perspective of innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness (the academic career path and the professional trajectory, developing of teaching materials, guiding students in bachelor's and master's theses, participating in administrative and managerial activities, participating in internships and professional training courses, the elements of recognition of scientific, academic, and professional activities, and other relevant activities).

At the end of Section I, a series of **general conclusions** are presented, focusing on **the originality and relevance of the achievements in the field of International Business and Economics**. These are presented as a comprehensive overview of the contributions and progress across all three dimensions (scientific, academic, and professional).

The originality of contributions is highlighted mainly through a series of elements such as: the use of Kohonen neural networks for grouping ESG performance at the level of companies based in Europe; conducting a systematic, global study to profile the sustainability of stock exchanges; investigating stock market behaviour following the issuance of sustainability bonds; analysing the impact of culture on the global allocation of artificial intelligence skills among company employees; extending studies/methodologies applied at international level for alternative risk transfer solutions to the specific case of evaluating the effectiveness of securitizing systemic risk towards the capital markets in the agricultural sector in Romania through catastrophe bonds; and developing innovative business indicators.

The relevance of contributions is amply highlighted through elements such as: consolidation and expansion of studies in the field of sustainable finance, alternative risk transfer solutions, and corporate sustainability – by excellence, current topics at the international level; extension of studies on innovative bonds for managing climate, disaster, and social impact risks; highlighting the role of national culture in explaining phenomena such as sustainability and artificial intelligence – considered to be of interest currently and essential for the future, both at the business and societal level; using a highly mathematized methodological apparatus and advanced econometric analysis software packages; highlighting numerous competitive aspects at the corporate level; individualizing aspects related to sustainability, innovation, and/or competitiveness at the level of the disciplines, of the developed teaching materials, of the themes approached through the coordination of bachelor's and master's theses, of the professional training courses and internships, projects and institutional activities in which I was involved.

Section II comprises three chapters and outlines the plans for career evolution and development from the perspective of scientific, academic, and professional activities. It considers a series of themes and research directions in the field of sustainable finance, digital transformation, and business resilience from the perspective of the International Business and Economics field. All the elements form a comprehensive plan focused on objectives and actions aimed at operationalizing them to achieve progress in scientific, academic, and professional spheres.

I appreciate that through the presentations in the habilitation thesis **there are outlined my own ability of leading PhD thesis and, also, the premises for the independent development of my future research and academic career** by revealing my own teaching and research capabilities and performances, and demonstrating the originality and relevance of my academic, scientific, and professional contributions in **the field of International Business and Economics**.