

ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES OF BUCHAREST



DOCTORAL SCHOOL: MANAGEMENT

**MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY:
CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND PRACTICES**

SUMMARY OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

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Summary

The habilitation thesis on *Management of sustainable development in the knowledge-based economy: challenges, opportunities and practices*, is conceived as an extensive and rigorous scientific work that demonstrates my ability to carry out independent research and highlights my competences in a wider research area. In the habilitation thesis, I have sought to integrate the results of previous research, including work published in prestigious journals and completed research projects. This requires not only in-depth knowledge of the field, but also the ability to innovate and make original contributions. The development of the habilitation thesis is based on the challenges encountered over a professional career spanning more than 25 years, in managing the balance between teaching and research activity with the constant pressure of publishing in prestigious journals. The writing of the habilitation thesis was a complex process that involved organizing the material in a coherent and logical way and included a critical review of the literature, description of the methodology used, presentation of the research findings and brief discussion of their implications.

The dissertation is structured according to the recommendations of the National Council for the Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates, in three main sections: (i) Scientific, professional and academic achievements; (ii) Plans for professional, scientific and academic career development; (iii) Bibliographical references.

A career in academia is a complex journey marked by numerous stages and challenges, characterized by a combination of passion for knowledge, dedication, hard work and the desire to contribute to the development of society through education and research. The beginning of my scientific activity is linked to my doctoral studies, which came to fruition in 2005, when I obtained the scientific title of PhD in Management.

The doctoral committee's appreciation and the successful publication of the dissertations and other materials related to my doctoral thesis have supported my inclination not only towards teaching but also towards scientific activity.

Each step has been essential for the development of my career, which has been crowned with many satisfactions and recognitions: since 2005 I have been an evaluator registered in the "List of Specialists of the Authorization Commission of Adult Vocational Training Providers" Constanta, in the field of "Commerce" being part of numerous

evaluation and monitoring committees of vocational training programs as well as of examination committees of graduates of vocational training programs in this field; in 2020 I was appointed Director of the School of Postgraduate Studies and Vocational Training; since 2022, the position of Prodecan at the Faculty of Economics at the "Ovidius" University of Constanta, has given me a sense of fulfillment, although it is not easy to be responsible for the research strategy, development, human resources and administrative issues of a university structure. The competition and pressures are great but the rewards of an academic career - the contribution to scientific and educational progress - are priceless. This path is ultimately my life choice based on passion, dedication and the desire to make a meaningful contribution to the community.

The research directions in the field of management have been structured into 3 distinct chapters in line with the expansion of the theme on sustainable development.

- *Challenges and opportunities towards a knowledge-based economy*
- *Financial opportunities for sustainable development*
- *Policies and practices for sustainable tourism development*

Sustainable development is a central concept in contemporary discussions on social, economic and environmental progress. In the context of accelerating climate change, population growth and the depletion of natural resources, sustainable development is emerging as an imperative necessity to ensure a balanced and prosperous future.

By delineating its own research, the thesis aims to provide an in-depth understanding of how economic and financial transformations can contribute to achieving sustainable development, highlighting the importance of striking a balance between economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

The objectives of the thesis are to explore and analyze the economic and financial challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable development. Specifically, the thesis focuses on the following themes:

- *Knowledge-based economy in the perspective of sustainable development.* We examined the role of the knowledge-based economy in promoting sustainable development, including the impact of innovation and technology on economic and environmental sustainability. The sustainable development of organizations in the knowledge-based economy, in which knowledge is at the forefront, must focus as a priority on finding solutions for the intelligent management of scarce resources, especially through

organizational change and its continuous evaluation as a solution with long-term impact. The transition of organizations to the principles of the knowledge-based economy requires a fundamental change in the culture of organizations. The dynamism and complexity of the new type of society, which entails an increasingly diverse and upwardly mobile educational level, but also a continuously highly educated workforce, ever greater investment in R&D and, last but not least, a continuous increase in the volume and diversity of information, together and in combination, constitute a vector for the well-being of future generations.

- *European Green Public Procurement Regulations in the context of the circular economy.* The particular importance of Green Public Procurement, due to its favorable effects on sustainable development, conservation/enhancement of the environment, human health, plus other positive social and economic implications, makes it a distinct subject of both EU strategies/policies and the related legislative system.

- *Implementation of ethical principles and values within the organization integrated at the strategic level.* The ability to reflect on values in the decision-making process, to determine how these values and decisions influence various stakeholder groups and how managers can use these observations in the day-to-day conditions of the firm is what we call - business ethics.

- *The impact of fiscal principles and rules on the promotion of sustainable public finances in EU countries.* The main purpose of government fiscal behavior is to ensure that finances are sufficient to support the long-term needs of future generations. The implementation of sound fiscal policy or the whole improvement of fiscal discipline through tax rules is one of the main constraints affecting all governments and is an important topic for policy makers and researchers alike, with the sustainability of public finances at the heart of any transition towards economic sustainability.

- *Banking integration and sustainable growth in EU countries.* Sustainable economic growth is considered as a fundamental issue due to the effects that can be felt on society as a whole, along with the phenomenon of banking integration which can influence the development of a country's economy.

- *Effects of the absorption of European funds on the competitiveness of SMEs in the Danube Delta.* Declared a Biosphere Reserve, the Danube Delta represents a permanent challenge in terms of harmonizing economic activities with landscape conservation,

development and conservation interests. Thus, public and environmental policies as well as development plans for the area have tried to optimize the relationship between the functioning of the biosphere, whose natural area should preserve its integrity, on the one hand, and human activity that exploits the resources on the other hand.

▪ *Transition of the national cabalin gene pool from rural use to the recreational industry.* The transition of the national equine gene pool from rural subsistence use to the recreation industry is a complex process, influenced by economic, social and technological changes.

▪ *Sustainable Development of Organic Food in the European Union: An Integrated Approach to Trends and Challenges.* In recent years, organic food has become an important pillar of sustainability policies in the European Union, reflecting both consumer health concerns and the need for more environmentally friendly agriculture.

The second section of the thesis highlights the complexity and dynamism of developing an academic career, emphasizing the importance of balancing teaching and scientific research. There is no universal recipe for success in this field, and everyone forges their own career path, guided by intuition, aspirations and personalized strategies. A key aspect is continuous development and accumulation of relevant skills. In an ever-changing academic world, innovation and adaptability are essential to remain competitive. Job satisfaction comes both from material achievements, but more importantly from the positive impact we have on students and the scholarly community.

Developing a strong academic career requires passion, perseverance and openness to new opportunities, demonstrating seriousness and skill for continuous development. True success lies not only in achieving predetermined goals, but also in the process of continuous learning, in the ability to overcome challenges, to inspire and contribute to the advancement of the field.