

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 9 October, 2025

Hall of festivities,
National Institute for Economic Research, Creanga str., 45
4th floor

Plenary Moderator – Victoria IORDACHI, PhD in economics

9.00-10.00	Participants registration
10.00-12.00	WELCOME SPEECH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angela TIMUȘ, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, Director of the National Institute for Economic Research, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova• Alexandru STRATAN, Habilitated Doctor, University Professor, Academician of ASM, Rector of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova• Greetings from the conference guests
	PLENARY SESSION <p>Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83201191327?pwd=sldFVnnld4OcaFeA6uIF0XQ9KUpsb5.1 ID: 832 0119 1327 Passcode: 2025</p> <p>Simona MOAGĂR POLADIAN, Professor, Habilitated Doctor, Director of the Institute for World Economy, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania ROMANIA: A REVIEW OF ATTEMPTS TO ENTER THE EUROZONE. WHAT LESSONS SHOULD BE LEARNED?</p> <p>Jan POLCYN, Professor, Habilitated Doctor, Department of Economics, Stanislaw Staszic State University of Applied Sciences in Pila, Poland IMPLEMENTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: INSIGHTS FROM A SYSTEMATIC PRISMA REVIEW</p> <p>Olga GAGAUZ, Habilitated Doctor, Associate Professor, Head of the Centre for Demographic Research, National Institute for Economic Research, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova FROM CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PENSION SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA</p>
12.00-13.00	Lunch Break

Presentation time limits in plenary session - 20 min

THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSION

13.00-17.00 15.00-15.30 Coffee-Break	SESSION I ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, COMPETITIVENESS, DIGITALISATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84429574932?pwd=cZFUe9HI8bPknS9QDLbH8cpcfRCkDe.1 ID: 844 2957 4932 Passcode: 111	Office 312 3rd floor
	SESSION II ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND MODERNIZATION IN FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT Join Zoom Meeting: https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84969777753?pwd=g0jZO85cONL27sAc9TxUG44GU5NvdL.1 ID: 849 6977 7753 Passcode: 77Etau	Office 303 3rd floor
	SESSION III GREEN FINANCE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY SYNERGIES: A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83201191327?pwd=sIDfVnn1d4OcaFeA6uIF0XQ9KUpsb5.1 ID: 832 0119 1327 Passcode: 2025	Office 209 2nd floor
	SESSION IV WELL-BEING, INCLUSION AND THE REDUCTION OF SOCIAL INEQUALITIES Join Zoom Meeting: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2799749988?pwd=oDyrOwWgm7aZIIlua4mZ7dpt2g4eu2.1&omn=75125010691 ID: 279 974 9988 Passcode: S4NIER	Hall of festivities 4th floor
	SESSION V BUILDING DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE: STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE POPULATION DEVELOPMENT Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89825702119?pwd=oas5ZzcgvT9dgL7D5e9PZxvVNISlgU.1 Meeting ID: 898 2570 2119 Passcode: 604919	Office 309 3rd floor

Presentation time limits in session - 10 min

Friday, 10 October, 2025

**GLIA Hub,
Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (ASEM), Block A,
61 Mitropolit Gavriil Bănulescu-Bodoni Street**

1st Floor

Moderator - Dumitru STRATAN, PhD in economics

10.00-10.20	Participants registration
10:20-11:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION</p> <p>Jörg FREILING, Professor, Habilitated Doctor, Head of Chair, LEMEX – Chair in Small Business & Entrepreneurship, University of Bremen, Germany</p> <p>POWER ASYMMETRIES AND CONFLICT DYNAMICS IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS: TRAJECTORIES OF MARGINALISATION OR INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS</p> <p>Victoria COCIUG, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, Vice Rector of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova</p> <p>THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTERACTION OF MONETARY AND MACROPRUDENTIAL POLICIES</p> <p>Q&A session</p>
11.00-12.30	<p>SPECIAL SESSION</p> <p>THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES: YOUTH-LED RESEARCH ON FINANCE, SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES</p> <p>Cristina UNGUR, PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM</p> <p>STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC AND METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR REDUCING SOCIAL VULNERABILITY BY INCREASING THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF LOW-INCOME GROUPS</p> <p>Corina GRIBINCEA, PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORKING MODELS IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-PANDEMIC CONSEQUENCES AND STRENGTHENING OF JOB-SPECIFIC SKILLS FOR OCCUPATIONS AND AREAS OF SMART SPECIALISATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA</p> <p>Ecaterina GRIGORAŞ, PhD in sociology National Institute for Economic Research, AESM</p> <p>FACILITATING DEMOGRAPHIC POLICIES THROUGH THE EXPLORATION OF DATA FROM THE GENERATIONS AND GENDER STUDY</p> <p>Q&A session</p>
12.30-13.00	Closing of the International Scientific Conference

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UNGUR Cristina, *PhD, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM*

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DETAILED PROGRAMME

SESSION I ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, COMPETITIVENESS, DIGITALIZATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Office 312, 3rd floor

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Alexandra NOVAC, PhD, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
Cristina UNGUR, PhD, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Alina HALLER, Habilitated Doctor in Economics, "Gheorghe Zane" Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch, Romania

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE TOURISM IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION.
AN ANALYSIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SUSTAINABILITY, DIGITALIZATION AND RESILIENCE

Vasylyna PODLIESNA, Habilitated Doctor in Economics, Associate Professor, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

THE ROLE OF MILITARIZATION AND MOBILIZATION SOCIETY FOR THE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF CYCLICAL SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT

Georgeta ILIE, PhD, Institute for World Economy, Romanian Academy, Romania

THE VULNERABILITIES OF TRADE IN SERVICES IN THE CONTEXT OF RECENT GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS

Daniel BULIN, Researcher, Institute for World Economy, Romanian Academy, Romania

POLYCRISES AND GEO-ECONOMIC FRAGMENTATION: THE CHALLENGES OF A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

Camelia MILEA, PhD in economics, Scientific researcher III, Centre for Financial and Monetary Research "Victor Slăvescu", Romania

THE ANALYSIS OF THE NEXUS BETWEEN EXTERNAL DEFICIT AND BUDGET DEFICIT

Andreea Daniela GIUCĂ, PhD in economics, Research Assistant, Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development, Romania

ANALYSIS OF THE DEGREE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION IN ROMANIA

Andrei RĂDULESCU, PhD, Institute for World Economy, Romanian Academy, Romania

THE ROMANIAN ECONOMY PROBABLY HIT A MINIMUM IN 1st QUARTER 2025

Daniela MATEI, PhD in economics, „Gheorghe Zane” Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch, Romania

Viorel CHIRIȚĂ, PhD in Geography, Stefan cel Mare University, Suceava, Romania

DETERMINANT VECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH TOURISM RELATED ACTIVITIES. CASE STUDY: SUCEVIȚA RESORT

Tincuța VRABIE, Professor, University Lecturer, „Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați, Romania

THE NEED TO ENSURE ENTREPRENEURIAL MANAGEMENT IN RURAL AREAS FOR ECONOMIC AGENTS

Alla LEVITSKAIA, Professor, Habilitated Doctor in Economics, Comrat State University, Regional Economic Development Institute, Moldova

GENDER-SENSITIVE PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP: INSIGHTS FROM UNGHENI AND CAHUL

Larysa HUK, PhD Researcher, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AS A BASIS FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF THE STATE AND COMPETITIVENESS OF ENTERPRISES

İpek GÜMÜŞCAN, PhD Candidate , Suleyman Demirel University, Turkey

FROM RECEIVING TO INITIATING CHANGE: THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP TRIO IN THE EUROPEAN RESTRUCTURING LANDSCAPE

Ercan OZEN, Prof. PhD, University of Uşak, Faculty of Applied Science, Turkey

Mesut ATASEVER, Associate Prof., PhD, University of Uşak, Faculty of Applied Science, Turkey
THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND FINTECH ON TRADE ROUTE MANAGEMENT

Amr Abdo Taha Saif AL-AWADHI, Researcher, Bandırma Onyedi Eylül University, Turkey

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INNOVATION AS DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS

Dumitru STRATAN, PhD, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

DIGITAL INCLUSION & INNOVATION FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: EMPOWERING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN MOLDOVA

Maia PISANIUC, PhD, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

THE IMPACT OF THE ICT SECTOR ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Alexandra NOVAC, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

TOBACCO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: MAIN TRENDS

Viorica POPA, PhD, Coordinator Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Nicolae POPA, Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

THE INTEGRATION OF SMART TECHNOLOGIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PARKS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Sorinel Ionel BUCUR, PhD Researcher, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Romania
ASPECTS REGARDING DIGITALIZATION IN ROMANIA - A TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS

Maria BUCȘA, PhD Researcher, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
THE APPLICABILITY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP:
TIME MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR
EMPLOYEES

Aurelia ȚURCAN, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
RISK MANAGEMENT IN E-COMMERCE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MOLDOVAN
MARKET

Gheorghii DIACONU, University Lecturer, Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts, Republic of Moldova

Aurel MUSTEAȚĂ, PhD, Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts, Republic of Moldova
Ion BARABULA, Researcher, President of AO "Be Up", Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts, Republic of Moldova

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SMALL TOWNS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: A MODEL OF INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL ACCELERATION

Anatolie BABIN, Researcher, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

Ekaterina BABINA, Researcher, Sofia University, Bulgaria
SMART SPECIALIZATION AND REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS: INTEGRATING BAK S3
AND RHOMOLO METHODOLOGIES FOR MOLDOVA AND EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
COUNTRIES

Constantin GÎLCĂ, PhD in economics, Lecturer, University of European Studies of Moldova
THE ROLE OF THE CASPIC REGION IN THE ENERGETIC SECURITY OF EU

Elena RUSU, PhD student, lecturer, Moldova State University, Moldova
DIGITAL PROCUREMENT TRANSFORMATION AND STRATEGY

Viorica VERDEȘ, PhD student, Moldova State University, Moldova
PERFORMANCE-BASED PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AS A TOOL FOR ECONOMIC
RESILIENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS

Svetlana ZLATOVA, PhD student, Comrat State University, Moldova
APPLICABILITY OF THEORIES OF COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR ENTERPRISES OF
THE GAGAUZ REGION

Arina GAGAUZ, Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
TRANSFORMING MARKETING MANAGEMENT IN B2B WITH EVIDENCE FROM
MOLDOVA

Denis VINTU, Researcher, BSc in Economics, Moldova
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND THE BALANCING OF THE NATIONAL
ACCOUNTS SYSTEM

Dumitru NICULĂIȚĂ, scientific researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
SECTORAL COMPETITIVENESS AS A DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND
RESILIENCE

SESSION II

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND MODERNIZATION IN FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Tatiana IATISIN, PhD, Coordinating Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Tudor BAJURA, Habilitated Doctor, Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS CATTLE SECTOR THROUGH INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES

Camelia GAVRILESCU, PhD, Senior Researcher II, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Romanian Academy, Romania

ROMANIAN MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS NEGATIVE TRADE BALANCE – WHERE DOES THE CHAIN FAIL?

Ancuța MARIN, PhD in agronomy, Scientific Researcher II, Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development, Romania

Vili DRAGOMIR, PhD in agronomy, Scientific Researcher II, Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development, Romania

CALCULATION MODEL FOR CARBON EMISSIONS IN CEREAL AGRICULTURE

Elmira GOJAEVA, Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, Associate Professor of the Department of Applied Economics, Azerbaijan State Economic University, Azerbaijan

Fuad GASIMOV, Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, Azerbaijan State Economic University, Azerbaijan

PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRARIAN SECTOR OF AZERBAIJAN IN ENSURING FOOD SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY

Krisztina Melinda DOBAY, PhD in economics, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Romania

PUBLIC POLICIES FAVORABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASSOCIATIVE FORMS IN THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM IN ROMANIA

Ion CERTAN, PhD, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania

Dan-Marius VOICILAS, PhD, Associate Professor, Romanian Academy-Institute of Agricultural Economics, Romania

Camelia GAVRILESCU, PhD, Senior Researcher II, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Romanian Academy, Romania

THE HISTORY AND DYNAMICS OF RICE IN ROMANIA

Ana URSU, PhD, Scientific Researcher II, Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development, Romania

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ROMANIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Alic BÎRCĂ, Doctor Habilitate, Professor, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

THE PECULIARITIES OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY ON THE SITUATION OF PROTEIC CROPS IN ROMANIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Larisa CAISIN, Doctor Habilitate, Professor, Technical University of Moldova

Ana RAILEAN, master student, Technical University of Moldova

STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY BY DEVELOPING ASSOCIATION AND COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND OPTIMIZING THE VALUE CHAIN IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Daniela Nicoleta VOICILA, PhD in engineering, scientific researcher III, Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development, Romania

Steliana RODINO, PhD in bioeconomy, scientific researcher I, Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development, Romania

WORK PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS IN BIOECONOMY: ROMANIA VERSUS THE EUROPEAN UNION

Olesea COJOCARU, PhD in geonomics, Principal Consultant, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Moldova

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE TREND AND PERSPECTIVE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN RECENT YEARS

Ruxandra-Eugenia POP, PhD in economics, The Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development, Romania

FACILITATING CIRCULAR TRANSITION IN AGRICULTURE: EU FINANCIAL MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Lica ERHAN, PhD, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SMEs FROM AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD INDUSTRY

Petruța Antoneta TUREK-RAHOVEANU, PhD in agronomy- scientific researcher grade III, The Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural, Romania
CLIMATE CHANGE AND VEGETABLE FARMING: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE - REVIEW

Eugenia LUCASENCO, PhD, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR AS A DRIVER OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Tatiana IAȚIȘIN, PhD, National Institute for Economic Research, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Republic of Moldova
THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE WINE SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

George STANESCU, PhD student, IOSUD – Doctoral School of Economic Sciences and Humanities, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania
Anisoara DUICA, PhD Professor, Valahia University of Targoviste, Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Science and Technology, Romania
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION IN THE ROMANIAN FOOD INDUSTRY: A METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK BASED ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Maria GRUBLEAC, PhD, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Republic of Moldova
Liliana CIMPOIEȘ, PhD, associate professor, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
ANALYSIS OF CROP PRODUCTION SECTOR VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Georgeta MINCU, PhD researcher, Moldova State University
Sergiu TIRIGAN, Scientific researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES AND POLICY DYNAMICS IN MOLDOVA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR: A PATH TOWARD SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Diana COȘALÎC, PhD student, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
ECOLOGIC AGRICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: ACCESS TO THE EU MARKET BETWEEN HARMONIZATION AND BARRIERS

Alexandru CEBAN, Scientific researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF THE PIG SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Viorel TUREȚCHI, Scientific researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
IMPLEMENTATION OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY IN HORTICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

SESSION III

GREEN FINANCE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY SYNERGIES: A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Victoria IORDACHI, PhD, Associate Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
Olga TIMOFEI, PhD, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

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Plamen Marinov LAKOV, PhD, Professor, Head of the Department "Regional Development, Agribusiness and Tourism", University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv, Republic of Bulgaria

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BANKING SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COUNTRY'S JOINING THE EUROZONE

Otilia MANTA, PhD in economics, Professor, Romanian Academy, School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy, Doctoral School of Economic Sciences, National Institute of Economic Research "Costin C. Kirițescu", Center for Financial and Monetary Research "Victor Slăvescu", Romanian-American University, Romania

INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH. EMPOWERING FINANCIAL INCLUSION, ENHANCING WELL-BEING, AND REDUCING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Angela TIMUȘ, PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Dorina CLICHICI, PhD in economics, Institute for World Economy, Romanian Academy

Corina CHIRONACHI, PhD student, Doctoral School of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

ECONOMIC CONVERGENCE AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA UNDER THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Rodica PERCIUN, Habilitated Doctor, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Vlada VUTCARAU, PhD student, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

DEPOSIT-RETURN SYSTEM ÎN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Andreea - Emanuela DRAGOI, PhD in economics, Institute for World Economy (IWE), Romania
HOW STATE AID POLICY FINANCES THE GREEN TRANSITION: EVIDENCE FROM ROMANIA

Rodica PERCIUN, Habilitated Doctor, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

BETWEEN FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY: THE PLACE OF GREENWASHING IN THE PRESENT-DAY DEBATE

Irina BILAN, PhD, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania; Social Finance Association, Romania

Constantin-Marius APOSTOAIE, PhD, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania Social Finance Association, Romania

Manuela IFTIMOAEI, PhD student in Sociology, School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy (SCOSAAR), Research Institute for Quality of Life (ICCV), Romanian Academy; AFIN- ALTERNATIVE FINANCING SA IFN

FINANCING SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANIZATIONS IN ROMANIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Valerica TĂTĂRANU (SOARE), PhD student, IOSUD – Doctoral School of Economic Sciences and Humanities, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania

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Liliana PASCHIA, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Hyperion University of Bucharest, Romania

FINANCIAL MECHANISM FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: LINKING GREEN FINANCE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND CORPORATE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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Marilena Carmen UZLAU, PhD, Senior researcher, Institute of Economic Forecasting, Romanian Academy, Romania

INTEGRATING LIFE CYCLE COST OPTIMISATION WITH FINANCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE UNDER CSRD/ESRS STANDARDS

Adriana Madalina BUCUR (COSCONEL), PhD student, IOSUD – Doctoral School of Economic Sciences and Humanities, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania

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FINANCIAL-ACCOUNTING INFORMATION AS A STRATEGIC RESOURCE FOR DECISION-MAKING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Maria-Magdalena Florea (Apostolache-Florea), PhD student, IOSUD – Doctoral School of Economic Sciences and Humanities, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania

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INTERNAL PUBLIC AUDIT: FROM CONTROL MECHANISM TO STRATEGIC PARTNER IN PUBLIC SECTOR GOVERNANCE

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS: ROMANIA'S INTEGRATION INTO THE EU FRAMEWORK

Daniela-Georgiana STOICA, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania

Dorin IANCU, PhD Student, Faculty of Economics, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania
FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY IN ROMANIA

Mihaela-Monica DRĂGAN (RADU), PhD student, IOSUD – Doctoral School of Economic Sciences and Humanities, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania

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DATA-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE AND AI: RETHINKING BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Laura MARCU, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania

Mihaela TEODORESCU, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Valahia University of Targoviște, Romania

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BANKING SECTOR

Sorinel CĂPUȘNEANU, Titu Maiorescu University, Bucharest, Romania, 1 Decembrie 1918 University, Alba Iulia, Romania
Bogdan Ionuț STOLOJESCU, 1 Decembrie 1918 University, Alba Iulia, Romania
Maria MĂGUREAN, 1 Decembrie 1918 University, Alba Iulia, Romania
Gabriel POPESCU, 1 Decembrie 1918 University, Alba Iulia, Romania
DYNAMICS AND PERSPECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ORGANIZATIONS: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

Mihail CIOBANU, PhD student, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
Iulia BEJENARU, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
DETERMINANTS OF BANK BRANCH DISTRIBUTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Alina Georgeta AILINĂ, PhD in economics, Researcher, “Victor Slăvescu” Centre for Financial and Monetary Research, part of the National Institute of Economic Research of the Romanian Academy, Romania
AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF FISCAL INSTRUMENTS TO COMBAT ENERGY POVERTY AT THE EUROPEAN UNION LEVEL

Mihail CIOBANU, PhD student, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA'S TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY: RECENT INITIATIVES

Olga TIMOFEI, PhD, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION

Victoria IORDACHI, PhD, Associate Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
Stela CIOBU, PhD, Associate Professor, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AS A PILLAR OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: EVIDENCE FROM EU POLICIES AND MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

Olga TIMOFEI, PhD, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
IMPLICATIONS OF GREENWASHING FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Corina GRIBINCEA, PhD, Senior Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
INTEGRATING ESG PRINCIPLES INTO INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN PRACTICES AND CASE STUDIES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Iulia PERCIUN, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM AN ESG PERSPECTIVE

Denis VINTU, Researcher, BSc in Economics, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND THE BALANCING OF THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS SYSTEM

Valeriu EFREMOV, PhD, Moldova State University, Institute of Physical Education and Sports
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Sergiu TUTUNARU, PhD, Associate Professor, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
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THE POTENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTING NUTRILITE STANDARDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ARGUMENT FOR COOPERATION

Veronica RAILEAN, PhD, Institute of Ecology and Geography of the State University of Moldova

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROBLEMS IN FINANCING THE WATER SUPPLY AND
SANITATION SECTOR IN THE SOUTH DEVELOPMENT REGION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MOLDOVA

Ivan LUCHIAN, PhD in economics, Moldova State University

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THE PARTICULARITIES OF INVESTMENTS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Viorica POPA, PhD, Coordinator Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Lilia ȘARGU, PhD, Coordinator Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
RESILIENCE OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA:
CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

SESSION IV

WELL-BEING, INCLUSION AND THE REDUCTION OF SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Hall of festivities, 4th floor

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Biser Yordanov KRASTEV, Professor, PhD, Head of Department Economics and Management, University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv, Republic of Bulgaria
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Cosmin-Constantin SICREA, PhD, Assistant Lecturer, University of Petroșani, Romania
CURRENT TRENDS IN HIV INFECTION IN ROMANIA

Alina Ligia DUMITRESCU, PhD, Senior Researcher, Institute for World Economy, Romania
THE REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

Tatyana BURLAY, Habilitated Doctor, Leading Researcher, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Viktoriiia BLYZNIUK, Habilitated Doctor, Corresponding Member of the NAS of Ukraine, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Larysa HUK, PhD in economics, Senior Researcher, Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

POST-WAR REPLENISHMENT OF UKRAINE'S HUMAN CAPITAL FOR ITS SOCIAL RESILIENCE

Alexandra TIGHINEANU, PhD in law, Associate Professor, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

AGE-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN LABOUR LAW: PROTECTING OLDER WORKERS IN THE CONTEXT OF EXTENDING WORKING LIFE

Ewa WILK, PhD, Researcher, University of Warsaw, Poland

Malgorzata KRÓWCZYŃSKA, PhD, Researcher, University of Warsaw, Poland

COUNTING THE UNSEEN: THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TOLL OF ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASE

Mariana BĂLAN, PhD, Hyperion University of Bucharest, Romania
Carmen UZLĂU, PhD, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Romanian Academy, Romania
REGIONAL DISPARITIES OF THE NEET YOUTH RATE IN ROMANIA

Ecaterina HEGHEA, PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
INEQUALITY INDICATORS: FROM GINI TO ATKINSON AND PALMA

Iulia GARABAJII, Scientific researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
UNDERSTANDING INCOME DIFFERENTIATION: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE ON MOLDOVA

Anatolii ROJCO, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
STATE REGULATION OF PROCESSES AIMED AT REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Maria KOMPANEETS, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, Moldova State University
Ludmila GOLOVATAYA, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, Moldova State University
SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING IN EU COUNTRIES: EXPLORING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DRIVERS

Svetlana RUSU, PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
IN-WORK POVERTY AMONG YOUTH IN MOLDOVA

Carmen CIORNEI, Head of The Social Protection Department, The Directorate of Social and Medical Assistance (DSMA), Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Crina MOISA, Senior policy officer, The Directorate of Social and Medical Assistance (DSMA), Cluj-Napoca, Romania
INVISIBLE SURVIVAL STRATEGIES – THE INTERACT Project: RETHINKING SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESS WOMEN IN ROMANIA

Constantin RADU, Innovation Manager, AP „Asociația Antreprenorilor de Foraj din Moldova”, NGO, Republic of Moldova
SOCIAL HEALTH AND EQUALITY: NUTRILITE AS A TOOL FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN MOLDOVA

Loredana Marcela TRANCĂ, PhD, University Lecturer, West University of Timișoara, Romania
David LUNGU, Master's student, West University of Timișoara, Romania
STRONG LOCAL SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM AS AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT TO SOCIAL INCLUSION OF REFUGEES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Loredana Marcela TRANCĂ, PhD, University Lecturer, West University of Timișoara, Romania
Beatrice DOBÎNDĂ, Master's student, West University of Timișoara, Romania
RESILIENCE, INCLUSION, AND THE CHALLENGES OF PARENTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MOTHERS

Dorin VACULOVSCI, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
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MECHANISMS FOR MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Tenzin YESHI, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, Bremen University, Germany

UNVEILING THE POWER DYNAMICS OF INCLUSION: MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

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WHY STAY? UNPACKING PLACE ATTACHMENT AND LIFE SATISFACTION IN RURAL SOUTHEAST EUROPE

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MULTIDIMENSIONAL WELL-BEING IN RURAL AREAS DURING TIMES OF TRANSITION: A DESCRIPTIVE GLANCE AT FOUR SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Angela MICCIO, Single-cycle Master's degree course in Law, University of Naples, president of the movement "Let's give to the law a soul!", Human Rights Forum, Naples, Italy

LEGAL RESEARCH AND DISABILITY STUDIES: TOWARDS A TRANSDISCIPLINARY AND UNITARY HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Elena PRUS, Habilitated Doctor, Professor, Free International University of Moldova (ULIM)

Anatolie BABIN, Researcher, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

Ion BARABULA, Researcher, President of AO "Be Up", Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts

INNO-CULT: DIGITALIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Vlada COLESNICOVA, Scientific researcher, Vladimir Andrunachievici Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, Moldova State University

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AI-POWERED VIDEO GENERATION PLATFORMS FOR RESOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Oxana BARBĂNEAGRĂ, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

MULTIDIMENSIONAL INDICATORS OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION: EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Cristina UNGUR, PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

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ALIGNING WORKFORCE SKILLS AND EDUCATION WITH EVOLVING WORK TRENDS IN MOLDOVA

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Serhii PIECHKA, PhD in economics, Odesa National University of Technology, Ukraine
Dmytro LITVINOV, PhD in economics, Odesa National University of Technology, Ukraine
PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS THROUGH SYNERGY
BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TOURISM

Tatiana COLESNICOVA, PhD in economics, Associate Professor, Head of Department Social Research and Standard of Living, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
EVALUATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES' SYSTEM OF INDICATORS FOR
MEASURING INCOME INEQUALITY AND POVERTY LEVEL AMONG THE POPULATION

Elena SPIRIDON, PhD student, Scientific Researcher, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania
THE SUBSTANTIVE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN'S INTERESTS IN THE ROMANIAN
PARLIAMENT

Corina GRIBINCEA, PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
Cristina UNGUR, PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
Marina POPA, PhD in economics, Faculty of International Economic Relations, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
Elena ȘÎRBU (ȘOLDAN), PhD candidate, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
ENHANCING THE ALIGNMENT OF MOLDOVA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM AND VOCATIONAL
TRAINING WITH LABOUR MARKET REQUIREMENTS

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Georgiana-Tatiana BONDAC, Assist. PhD, Faculty of Economics, Valahia University of Târgoviște, Romania
THE COMPETITIVENESS OF ROMANIAN FESTIVALS IN PROMOTING EUROPEAN
CULTURAL TOURISM

Silvia Elena ISACHI, Scientific Researcher, Victor Slăvescu – Centre for Financial and Monetary Research, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania
CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES: SUSTAINABILITY AND JOBS

Ciprian NIMARĂ, PhD in engineering, University of Petroșani, Romania
Anca Jarmila GUȚĂ, PhD in economics, University of Petroșani, Romania
QUALITY OF HABITATION AND PERCEPTION OF URBAN SPACE. CASE STUDY: TÂRGU
JIU CITY, ROMANIA

Maria Livia STEFANESCU, PhD in sociology, Researcher, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania
THE QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY PERCEIVED BY THE POPULATION FROM ROMANIA AND
THE FACTORS INFLUENCING THE MAINTENANCE OF DEMOCRACY – STATISTICAL
STUDY, MARCH 2023

SESSION V
BUILDING DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE: STRATEGIES FOR
SUSTAINABLE POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

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Ecaterina GRIGORAȘ, PhD, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Mariana BUCIUCEANU-VRABIE, PhD, Associate Professor, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

MEASURING ACTIVE AGENING IN A NON-EU CONTEXT: THE CASE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Raluca POPESCU, Professor, PhD, University of Bucharest, Romania

Ecaterina GRIGORAȘ, PhD, Research Coordinator, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Dan VÎRDOL, National Institute of Statistics, Romania

FROM EARLY TO LATE FERTILITY: COMPARATIVE EVIDENCE FROM ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

Diana CHEIANU-ANDREI, PhD, Scientific Researcher, MSU, Sociopolis Consultancy, Moldova

GENDER EQUALITY PERCEPTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: TRENDS, CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

Ciprian IFTIMOAEI, Associate Professor, PhD, „Petre Andrei” University of Iasi, Romania

Daniela Gabriela COZMA, PhD, Iași County Directorate of Statistics, Romania

MIGRATION TRENDS AND THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

Ecaterina DELEU, PhD, State University of Moldova

SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA WITH HOST COUNTRIES OF MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS: ACHIEVEMENTS AND TRENDS

Inga CHISTRUGA-SÎNCHEVICI, PhD, Research Coordinator, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

EVOLVING TRENDS IN MARITAL BEHAVIOR AMONG THE POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Mihaela DRAGOMIR, PhD student, Doctoral School of Social Sciences, Moldova State University
NOT NOW, MAYBE NEVER: FERTILITY HESITATION, SPIRITUAL REFRAMING AND
SELF-CARE CULTURES IN URBAN ROMANIA

Mariana CRÎȘMARU, PhD, Research Coordinator, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

NEET YOUTH INTEGRATION INTO THE LABOUR MARKET IN THE REPUBLIC OF
MOLDOVA: BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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Andrii TVERDOHLIB, PhD student, Mykhailo Ptukha Institute for Demography and Quality of Life Research National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF CATASTROPHE: WHAT THE GLOBAL
COMMUNITY CAN LEARN FROM THE UCRAINIAN EXPERIENCE

Simona Maria STĂNESCU, PhD, Senior researcher, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania

Simona MIHAIU, PhD, Senior researcher, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania

Constanța COSTACHE, PhD student, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania

DEMOGRAPHIC RECOVERY POLICIES ADOPTED IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION

Iryna KURYLO, PhD, Charles University, Czech Republic

CHANGES IN THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF
UKRAINIAN WAR MIGRANTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Svitlana AKSYONOVA, PhD, Leading Researcher, M.V. Ptukha Institute for Demography and Life Quality Research of the NAS of Ukraine

Borys KRIMER, PhD, Leading Researcher, M.V. Ptukha Institute for Demography and Life Quality Research of the NAS of Ukraine

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SYSTEM IN UKRAINE DURING WARTIME:
PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

Ludmila SLYUSAR, PhD in economics, M.V. Ptukha Institute of Demography and Social Research of the of the NAS of Ukraine

FAMILY RESILIENCE AS A FACTOR IN ENSURING THE STABILITY OF UKRAINIAN
SOCIETY IN CONDITIONS OF EXTREME CHALLENGES

Galina SAVELIEVA, PhD, Associate Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

Svetlana ZAHAROV, PhD, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON THE SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY IN MOLDOVA
AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Subkhonov AKBAR, PhD, Scientific Researcher, Institute of Economics and Demography of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan

PECULIARITIES OF DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT IN TAJIKISTAN

Ecaterina GRIGORAȘ, PhD, Research Coordinator, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

YOUTH MIGRATION BETWEEN CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES: A COMPARATIVE LITERATURE REVIEW

Marion SANTORELLI, lecturer, Università degli Studi del Sannio, Italy

Domenico CATULLO, Scientific researcher, cyber security and AI specialist, Università degli Studi del Sannio, Italy

BRIDGING MIGRATION AND RURAL REGENERATION: EU LINGUISTIC INTEGRATION POLICIES FOR DEMOGRAPHIC SUSTAINABILITY

Olga POALELUNGI, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

SOCIOCULTURAL ADAPTATION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION: EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Nicoleta MIHĂILĂ, PhD, "Victor Slăvescu" Centre for Financial and Monetary Research, Romania

MIGRATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE POST-PANDEMIC PERIOD. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Tatiana TABAC, PhD, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

STRENGTHENING DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE THROUGH RETURN MIGRATION AND DIASPORA IN MOLDOVA

Kristina GUNDERSEN, PhD student, Charles University, Czech Republic

Tereza ŽABA, PhD student, Charles University, Czech Republic

SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG OLDER ADULTS IN EUROPE: THE ROLE OF MIGRATION, LONELINESS, AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS

Irina PAHOMII, PhD student, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

CONTRIBUTION OF CAUSES OF DEATH TO PREMATURE MORTALITY AMONG MALES IN SELECTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Tleshova UMIT, PhD student, Charles University, Czech Republic

Hulíková Tesárková KLÁRA, PhD, Charles University, Czech Republic

Dzúrová DAGMAR, Professor, Charles University, Czech Republic

DECODING LIFE EXPECTANCY GAPS: A LONG-TERM DECOMPOSITION ANALYSIS OF THREE WHO EUROPEAN REGION COUNTRY GROUPS

Vitalie ȘTÎRBA, PhD student, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

SEASONAL MORTALITY IN MOLDOVA: AN ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH, 2018–2023

Elena SÎRBU, PhD student, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM

ECONOMIC LIFE CYCLE: COMPARATIVE INSIGHTS FROM NATIONAL TRANSFER ACCOUNTS

Maxim SLAV, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
DEATH CYCLICALITY BY BIRTH MONTH IN MOLDOVA

Artiom SAMOHVALOV, Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
MOLDOVAN PENSION RESILIENCE UNDER DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURE UP TO 2040

Natalia BARGAN, PhD student, Scientific researcher, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM
THE STATISTICAL INDICATOR USUAL RESIDENT POPULATION (RP): CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES AND IMPLEMENTATION PERSPECTIVES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Victoria CIUBOTARU, PhD student, State University of Moldova, Mother and Child Institute, Moldova
SHIFTS IN CONTRACEPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND REPRODUCTIVE AUTONOMY: INSIGHTS FROM MOLDOVA

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Simona MOAGĂR-POLADIAN

***Professor, PhD, Director of the Institute for World Economy,
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Simona Moagăr-Poladian's research focuses on areas of structural changes in the world economy, international economic relations, and European Economic and Monetary integration.

Since 2020, she has been a doctoral coordinator at the School of Economics of the Romanian Academy. She has been also a member of the Management Board of the Romanian European Institute, serving her third term. She has coordinated several national projects and participated in international projects too.

In 2020-2023 period she coordinated the Centre for Writing European Projects in the field of Climate Change funded by the Competitiveness Operational Program as project manager. She was the Manager for the Project of the “Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies, Horizon 2020: The Promoting of the National Interests Through Excellence, Competitiveness and Responsibility in the Romanian Fundamental and Applied Research”- under the European Structural Funds Programme, in 2014-2015 period.

Prof. Moagăr-Poladian is the author of over 100 scientific publications and academic studies, and actively contributes to informing decision makers about the evolution of commodity markets, the economic evolution of states and regions, risks and opportunities in trade and investments, case studies.

Jan POLCYN

***Habilitated Doctor, Professor, Department of Economics,
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Jan Polcyn's research focuses on aspects of sustainable development and human capital, mainly in relation to rural areas. He has participated in international research projects covering mainly Central European countries, mainly Moldova, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, the Czech Republic and Poland.

Prof. Polcyn is the author of 130 scientific publications and actively contributes to scientific research, mainly in international scientific networks

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Olga GAGAUZ

*Habilitation Doctor in sociology, Associate Professor,
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Olga Gagauz's research focuses on population dynamics, fertility, ageing, migration, and demographic projections. Throughout her career, she has coordinated numerous scientific projects, including those supported by UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, GIZ, and other international organisations. She is recognised as a national expert on population and development and actively contributes to evidence-based demographic policy in Moldova.

Dr. Gagauz served as Director of the National Institute for Economic Research from 2022 until June 2025. She is the author of more than 140 scientific publications, including monographs and articles published in ranked international journals. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Economy and Sociology*. Under her leadership, the Centre for Demographic Research has strengthened its role as a key national institution in demographic analysis and policy advice. She actively collaborates with international research networks and contributes to comparative studies across Europe and beyond.

Victoria COCIUG

*PhD in economics, Associate Professor,
Vice Rector for Research of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova*



Victoria Cociug's research focuses on monetary policy, macroprudential supervision, financial stability, and sustainable economic development.

In addition to her role as Vice-Rector for Research and Partnerships at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, *Dr. Cociug* is also Associate Professor and PhD supervisor in the field of finance. Over the years, she has coordinated and contributed to numerous national and international research projects, including postdoctoral studies on optimizing the effects of monetary policy through its correlation with macroprudential supervision, as well as Erasmus+ initiatives on quality assurance and research management in higher education. Her expertise is further reflected in her activity as expert evaluator for the European Commission's research programs under Horizon 2020 and in her membership on the editorial boards of several international scientific journals.

Dr. Cociug is the author of more than 120 scientific publications, including six monographs and numerous articles in international journals, and has over 25 years of academic and research experience.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jörg FREILING

*Professor, Habilitated Doctor,
LEMEX – Chair in Small Business & Entrepreneurship,
University of Bremen, Germany*



Jörg Freiling's research focuses on startups, entrepreneurial ecosystems, entrepreneurial support organizations, governance of family businesses, and business model innovations. With a focus on transnational and migrant entrepreneurship, he has coordinated a huge number of research projects and hosted many international conferences on this topic. His work is also dedicated to developing a supportive entrepreneurial infrastructure based on work in different countries.

Prof. Freiling is the author of more than 300 scientific publications, many of them in top-ranked international journals. He actively contributes to transnational entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystem research and facilitates policymaking in different countries of the EU and beyond.

SPECIAL SESSION SPEAKERS

Cristina UNGUR

PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM



Cristina Ungur's research focuses on public finance, insurance, the circular economy, and economic resilience. She has coordinated important fundamental and applied research projects for young researchers and has participated in more than eight national and international research initiatives.

Dr. Ungur is the author of 65 scientific publications and actively contributes to financial policy, sustainability, and the resilience of the financial system in the Republic of Moldova

Corina GRIBINCEA

PhD in economics, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM



Corina Gribincea's research focuses on green finance, industrial energy management, consumer business and consumer goods expertise, operational management, marketing, and tourism management. She has coordinated important fundamental and applied research projects for young researchers and has participated in more than eight national and international research initiatives.

Dr. Gribincea has published over 90 scientific works, including 4 articles in Scopus-indexed journals, 6 monographs, 14 manuals, 7 course notes, more than 20 scientific articles and other scholarly publications.

Ecaterina GRIGORAŞ

PhD in sociology, National Institute for Economic Research, AESM



Ecaterina Grigoraş is a sociologist and demographic researcher specializing in population dynamics and fertility transition. Her work focuses on cohort fertility behaviour, gender differences, and the use of longitudinal data (GGS) to inform demographic policies. She has contributed to numerous national and international research projects and published on fertility transitions, ethnic differentials, intergenerational transfers, and reproductive dynamics.

Dr. Grigoraş is the author or co-author of about 20 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals. Her research has been presented at major international conferences in the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, North Macedonia, and Moldova.

ABSTRACTS

PLENARY SESSION

ROMANIA: A REVIEW OF ATTEMPTS TO ENTER THE EUROZONE. WHAT LESSONS SHOULD BE LEARNED?

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Romania has registered further non-fulfilment of the Maastricht criteria.

Romania is still significantly off track on all key convergence criteria, especially regarding public finances, and has not yet entered ERM II. The focus has shifted more towards addressing fundamental macroeconomic imbalances rather than actively preparing for immediate euro adoption.

Romania has been the subject of an in-depth EC balance sheet analysis, but is not alone. Along with nine other member states (Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Sweden), it is important to identify in detail the causes of macroeconomic imbalances, in the EC alert mechanism reports. Having fiscal vulnerabilities, the practice of a restrictive monetary policy was not at all simple for the NBR, which had to face inflationary pressure. The National Bank of Romania has consistently maintained a more cautious stance, emphasizing the need for real convergence and structural reforms before setting an entry date.

The most striking difference is the clear divergence from Bulgaria. The European Commission's Convergence Report of June 2025 states that Bulgaria fulfills all the necessary criteria for adopting the euro, while Romania remains outside the eligibility framework.

Keywords: Romania, euro adoption, Maastricht criteria, macroeconomic imbalances, fiscal policy

IMPLEMENTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: INSIGHTS FROM A SYSTEMATIC *PRISMA* REVIEW

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The most significant impact of the industrial production process, which began with the Industrial Revolution, is the environmental damage caused by the waste generated during production. These environmental damages lead to pollution and form the basis of global climate issues. Therefore, it is aimed to reduce environmental harm by reintegrating waste, production inputs, and materials generated during production and consumption activities back into the production process. In this context, European Union countries aim to reduce environmental harm by utilizing these inputs in the production and consumption processes. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the studies related to the circular economy in the context of European Union countries within the circular economy literature. For this evaluation, the authors used studies from the circular economy literature available in the SCOPUS database for the period between 2004 and 2024. The analysis of the obtained dataset was conducted using the PRISMA (2015) approach. The use of the PRISMA (2015) approach in this analysis provided the authors with the opportunity to achieve systematic, transparent, and reliable results during the research process and allowed for reporting by eliminating the authors' biases. According to the findings obtained from this study, firstly, although there are many studies on the subject, the majority of them focus on the implementation of circular economy regulations and laws. Secondly, upon reviewing the full texts of the publications, it was observed that many of the studies were not actually related to the circular economy

Thirdly, considering the studies conducted, it is evident that there is an insufficient number of studies utilizing econometric models for the circular economy. Fourthly, there are no studies that perform a literature review using meta-synthesis methods specifically on the circular economy within the context of European Union countries. In this regard, the findings obtained from this study are expected to both fill the gap in the relevant literature and serve as a guide for academics and policymakers conducting research on the subject.

Keywords: *circular economy, European Union, environmental sustainability, PRISMA review, policy implementation*

FROM CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PENSION SYSTEM IN MOLDOVA

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The study assesses the sustainability of the pension system in the Republic of Moldova, taking into account demographic ageing, economic vulnerability, and institutional change. Using a comparative approach, the study draws on national statistics, international databases, and policy documents to evaluate Moldova's pension system alongside selected European Union countries - Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, and Romania, with similar historical and demographic backgrounds. Key indicators gauge both pension adequacy and the sustainability of financing. The analysis reveals how demographic shifts, migration, and labour market trends influence pension outcomes, highlighting Moldova's specific vulnerabilities compared to its regional peers. The discussion also explores reform options tailored to the Moldovan context, focusing on short-term measures to strengthen the public pay-as-you-go system and long-term strategies for developing supplementary mechanisms, such as voluntary savings. By situating Moldova's challenges within a broader European context, the paper contributes to the debate on how countries with fragile economies can develop resilient pension systems that ensure social protection amid ongoing demographic challenges and economic pressures.

Keywords: pay-as-you go, sustainability

THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTERACTION OF MONETARY AND MACROPUDENTIAL POLICIES

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The paper examines the evolving interaction between monetary and macroprudential policies in the aftermath of the 2007–2009 global financial crisis, which revealed the limitations of relying solely on price stability as a safeguard for financial stability. The analysis highlights the rationale for integrating macroprudential instruments into the central bank's toolkit and explores the institutional arrangements adopted across different countries, with particular emphasis on the European Union and emerging economies. The study underlines the dual role of central banks in safeguarding both price and financial stability, while stressing the challenges of coordinating monetary and macroprudential measures in practice. Special attention is given to the Moldovan banking sector, where the implementation of prudential instruments and monetary policy adjustments illustrate the complexities of policy transmission in small open economies. The findings support the view that effective coordination of the two policy areas enhances resilience to systemic risks and strengthens the credibility of central banks in promoting sustainable economic growth.

Keywords: monetary policy, macroprudential policy, central bank, financial stability, systemic risk

POWER ASYMMETRIES AND CONFLICT DYNAMICS IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS: TRAJECTORIES OF MARGINALISATION OR INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS

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Entrepreneurial ecosystems are often conceptualized as inclusive, resource-rich environments that foster collaboration and entrepreneurial activity. However, this keynote challenges that narrative by examining how power asymmetries and conflict dynamics contribute to the marginalization of migrant entrepreneurs within local entrepreneurial ecosystems. Drawing on 61 in-depth interviews with migrant entrepreneurs across three Central European cities, a developed power-sensitive framework shows the structural, relational, and symbolic dimensions that shape entrepreneurial inclusion and exclusion. The findings reveal that network hierarchies, knowledge gaps, and institutional voids restrict access to resources, legitimacy, and support. These asymmetries are reinforced through cultural expectations, cognitive biases, and bureaucratic barriers that privilege dominant actors and mainstream forms of entrepreneurship. Conflict—manifested in struggles over recognition, trust, and belonging—emerges both as a symptom of exclusion and as a potential catalyst for change. A three-sphere model demonstrates how power and conflict dynamics operate across foundational structures, everyday practices, and social outcomes. While entrepreneurial ecosystems often fail to accommodate the hybrid identities and practices of migrant entrepreneurs, this study also highlights the strategic agency of these groups, who resist marginalization by creating alternative networks and resource-sharing practices. By conceptualizing entrepreneurial ecosystems as contested terrains, this study offers a critical perspective on ecosystem dynamics and underscores the need for inclusive policy design. Hence, systemic power imbalances and managing conflict constructively can be essential for unlocking the diversity potential of entrepreneurial ecosystems and fostering more equitable entrepreneurial futures.

Keywords: entrepreneurial ecosystems, migrant entrepreneurs, power asymmetries, conflict dynamics, inclusion

SPECIAL SESSION

THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES: YOUTH-LED RESEARCH ON FINANCE, SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES

STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC AND METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR REDUCING SOCIAL VULNERABILITY BY INCREASING THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF LOW-INCOME GROUPS

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Financial inclusion and the improvement of population welfare are key pillars of sustainable development at both European and national levels. This research aims to develop a scientific-methodological framework applicable to the Republic of Moldova, enabling the identification of indicators, risks, and opportunities for promoting inclusive financial behavior, particularly among low-income groups. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study combines document analysis, a quantitative survey conducted among 215 elderly individuals from urban and rural areas, and a binary logistic regression model to explore access to bank cards, savings, loans, and insurance. Findings reveal a low level of financial inclusion among older adults, with notable urban–rural disparities. Despite expanded access to banking services via social programs, usage remains limited, reflecting superficial financial integration. Key determinants identified include education, income digital skills, and trust in financial institutions. The study proposes the development of tailored financial services, a financial inclusion threshold model, and evidence-based policy recommendations.

Keywords: financial inclusion, social vulnerability, elderly population, digital skills, policy recommendations, Moldova

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORKING MODELS IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-PANDEMIC CONSEQUENCES AND STRENGTHENING OF JOB-SPECIFIC SKILLS FOR OCCUPATIONS AND AREAS OF SMART SPECIALISATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped labour markets and exposed structural weaknesses in workforce preparedness. In the Republic of Moldova, these transformations underline the importance of developing innovative working models that strengthen job-specific skills, improve adaptability, and align with smart specialisation priorities. Addressing these challenges is essential for enhancing economic competitiveness, promoting fair employment, and supporting the transition towards a green economy.

The research applies a combined methodological framework. General scientific methods such as systemic and logical approaches, analysis and synthesis, monographic study, and critical review of literature are complemented by economic tools including comparison, grouping, and graphical analysis. This mixed approach allows for a comprehensive exploration of employment trends and workforce needs in post-pandemic conditions.

Key findings highlight structural changes in employment during 2022–2023 and propose an employment map for the Republic of Moldova. A comparative study with Italy offers insights into workforce inclusion and smart specialisation practices, serving as a basis for adapting international experience to national conditions.

The study delivers a set of innovative working models designed for the Moldovan labour market, aimed at consolidating skills, increasing resilience, and promoting sustainable employment. The results contribute to evidence-based policy recommendations and long-term strategies for a more competitive and adaptable economy.

Keywords: post-pandemic labour market, smart specialisation, green economy, sustainable employment

FACILITATING DEMOGRAPHIC POLICIES THROUGH THE EXPLORATION OF DATA FROM THE GENERATIONS AND GENDER STUDY

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This study presents key findings from project 24.80012.0807.11TC “Facilitating demographic policies through the exploration of data from the Generations and Gender Study,” aimed at strengthening the evidence base for demographic policymaking in Moldova. Using Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) data from Moldova (2020) and Estonia (2021–2022), the analysis applies event history methods, multinomial logistic regression, and Sullivan’s method, with self-rated health (SRH) as a proxy for overall health. Fertility and partnership dynamics show sub-replacement fertility and delayed family formation. In Estonia, postponement, multiple unions, and childlessness (17.6% among women 50–59) are more prevalent than in Moldova (7.1%), where early and stable unions persist. Both countries exhibit increasing one-child families, especially in younger cohorts. Migration intentions are higher in Moldova (16%) than in Estonia (6.7%), particularly among young, educated individuals; men in Moldova are 47.6% more likely than women to intend migration. Economic constraints, education, unemployment, mobility, and the pandemic further shape intentions. Health inequalities reveal nonlinear SRH patterns by age and gender, highlighting vulnerability in youth and older ages. Healthy life expectancy (HLE) estimates using Sullivan’s method complement these findings, underscoring demographic disparities and the need for nuanced health and policy strategies.

Keywords: fertility dynamics, migration intentions, self-rated health, Generations and Gender Survey (GGS), Moldova, Estonia

SESSION I

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, COMPETITIVENESS, DIGITALIZATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE TOURISM IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION. AN ANALYSIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SUSTAINABILITY, DIGITALIZATION AND RESILIENCE

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The importance of tourism led to investigate it in the context of globalisation. Using panel data and regression analysis we show that globalisation dynamics depends on tourism, excepting Croatia and Romania, Tourism, and digitisation contribute integration of the region into global market, but not decisively. Tourism expenditures have a positive impact in CEE. The tourist flows are positive in Bulgaria and Estonia, occupancy level in Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Hungary, digitisation in Poland, Bulgaria, Slovenia and Hungary, resilience in Lithuania and Romania. Tourism expenditures tend to inhibit the globalisation in Lithuania. Foreign tourist flows influence the globalisation process in Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovenia and Hungary. In Bulgaria and Estonia, visitor flows give a boost to globalisation, while in Slovenia and Hungary the effect is the opposite. In Lithuania, Slovenia, Hungary and Latvia, the increase in occupancy level accentuates globalisation.

CEE globalisation depends on the ability to adapt to digitisation and how digital technology is used. Resilience is positive and statistically significant in Lithuania and Romania. For CEE, resilience tends to slow the integration rhythm. So, globalisation through tourism does not follow a uniform pattern in CEE.

Keywords: inbound tourism, globalisation, Central and Eastern Europe, digitisation, growth

THE ROLE OF MILITARIZATION AND MOBILIZATION SOCIETY FOR THE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF CYCLICAL SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT

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The modern transformational stage of the cyclical development of the world-system (duration approximately from 2026 to the 2050s) is formed by the synergy of the crisis-militaristic phases of global cycles, among which the leading role is played by Kondratieff cycles, long cycles of world politics, cycles of hegemony, systemic cycles of capital accumulation. The development of crisis-militaristic phases of global cycles causes a comprehensive militarization of the economy and public consciousness. The start of a new cycle of militarization of the global economy is also evidenced by the growth in global military spending. It is precisely in such conditions that the mobilization form of social existence is formed. The formation of a mobilization society means the formation of a certain ecosystem of interaction between societal classes and public institutions, in which public consciousness is subordinated to the main idea, for the sake of which some exceptional, extraordinary means and resources are necessary to achieve it.

Keywords: crisis-militaristic phases, global cycles, world-system, geopolitical contradictions, militarization, mobilization society

THE VULNERABILITIES OF TRADE IN SERVICES IN THE CONTEXT OF RECENT GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS

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Recent geopolitical tensions generated by the US trade policy have significantly amplified the vulnerabilities in the global economy, affecting many international businesses, including those in service industries. Although it is not directly targeted by US tariffs, trade in services is going to be affected due to the strong relationships between trade in goods and some services. At the same time, possible distortions are anticipated, due to the fact that trade in services could be the subject of some retaliation measures of trading partners, such as those that could limit access for US service providers to certain markets. The research identifies that trade in services is increasingly exposed to geopolitical tensions, making it harder for businesses to operate across borders, even for digital services.

Keywords: trade in services, geopolitical tensions, US tariffs, retaliatory measures.

POLYCRISES AND GEO-ECONOMIC FRAGMENTATION: THE CHALLENGES OF A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

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The paper analyses the main challenges facing the global economy in the post-pandemic period, in a context characterized by high uncertainty, geo-economic fragmentation and the confluence of systemic crises – economic, geopolitical, climatic and financial. The main objective is to assess the emerging risks that threaten macroeconomic stability and the structural vulnerabilities that hinder a sustainable recovery. In parallel, the economic policy solutions and directions proposed by the main international organizations are examined in order to find a coordinated response at global level. The analysis covers a wide range of measures – from restrictive monetary policy and fiscal consolidation to structural reforms and, where fiscal space allows, investment in the green and digital transitions and the strengthening of multilateral cooperation. The study also emphasizes the need for a differentiated framework for action depending on the specific characteristics of individual economies, especially for emerging economies that are exposed to external risks and have less fiscal space. The conclusion highlights the importance of a coherent mix of bold and sustainable economic policies that are able to simultaneously address cyclical challenges and structural transformations in an increasingly unstable international climate.

Keywords: global economy, systemic risks, structural vulnerabilities, geo-economic fragmentation, economic policy.

THE ANALYSIS OF THE NEXUS BETWEEN EXTERNAL DEFICIT AND BUDGET DEFICIT

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The purpose of the paper is to highlight the link between the external deficit and the budget deficit, given the high importance of the two imbalances in the evolution of each national economy. Thus, the author intends to make a literature review of the studies carried out in order to capture the interplay between the external and budget deficits. Another objective of the research is to disclose the mathematical relationship between the trade balance deficit and the budget deficit, through the absorption theory. The results obtained show that the external imbalance is the consequence of a higher/ lower domestic absorption than the national income. The results from the analysis of the economic literature are different in terms of the causality nexus between the two deficits due to the existence of several influence factors. The methodology used joins the identification of causalities with the descriptive analysis, and the literature review.

Keywords: causality, deficits, absorption, twin deficits, national income

ANALYSIS OF THE DEGREE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION IN ROMANIA

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This paper analyzes the degree of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Romania, with a particular focus on the economic dimension, while integrating relevant indicators from the social and environmental areas. The paper emphasizes the interdependence between the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), the results showing that economic development cannot be sustainable in the absence of social cohesion and environmental protection.

Keywords: sustainable development, economy, objectives, impact, Romania.

THE ROMANIAN ECONOMY PROBABLY HIT A MINIMUM IN 1st QUARTER 2025

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The Romanian economy continued to grow by an annual pace below 1% at the beginning of 2025, in a context of the high level of uncertainty, caused by a tense domestic political climate and multiple global conflicts. In this paper, standard econometric tools are applied, and the database of the National Institute of Statistics of Romania (2025) is used to assess the recent macroeconomic developments in Romania. According to the results of our analysis, the Romanian economy probably hit a minimum in the first quarter of 2025, as the fiscal consolidation process announced during the summer is expected to support the investment climate. However, we emphasize the short-term risks for Romania's economic performance, including the possibility of a significant correction in international financial markets.

Keywords: Romania, uncertainty, industrial production, investments

DETERMINANT VECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH TOURISM RELATED ACTIVITIES. CASE STUDY: SUCEVIȚA RESORT

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The mountainous area of Bukovina is continuously shaped by numerous economic processes in which the natural environment plays a key role. In the context of the economic dynamics of recent years, the initial status of the determinant elements of the geographical environment (water areas, forested areas, soil quality, cultural landscape, privileged geographical position) has led to the emergence of a new determinant for local development: tourism and leisure activities, present in most mountainous areas with adequate accessibility. This determinant factor triggers a redistribution of the resources available to rural communities and alters the functional profile of the settlements where the tourism business` growth has already reached threshold of development. In view of the above circumstances, the paper aims to identify a new potential set of determinants for the development of a rural community in which the scale of tourism activities has resulted in the coexistence of two types of rurality that can be identified in the same geographical area: one dominated by the traditional primary sector, the other in which tourism has substantially changed the way of life of the inhabitants and the perception of the use of the resources offered by the natural environment.

Keywords: structuring vectors, tourism, resorts of local interest.

THE NEED TO ENSURE ENTREPRENEURIAL MANAGEMENT IN RURAL AREAS FOR ECONOMIC AGENTS

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Economic activity in rural areas can be stimulated by ensuring an entrepreneurial spirit based on strategic management measures based on the reduction and/or diminution of economic and social differences identified in rural areas compared to urban areas. The tools for assessing entrepreneurial skills can ensure the success of economic agents by investing in the promotion and development of entrepreneurial culture and which represent the innovative premises of opportunities for affirming entrepreneurial ideas. The revitalization of the activities of economic agents in rural areas is based on the size of economic activities and their interdisciplinarity, the pragmatism of jobs in rural areas, the amount and numerical extent of income and the reduction of economic and social disparities in areas bordering rural areas. Thus, the engagement of all resources, including human resources, in the intensification of economic activities in rural areas and the generation of income can contribute to the performance of economic agents and implicitly to the provision of entrepreneurial management in rural areas, which ensures performance.

Keywords: rural development, economic agents, entrepreneurial skills, socio-economic disparities

GENDER-SENSITIVE PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP: INSIGHTS FROM UNGHENI AND CAHUL

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This study investigates women’s participation in entrepreneurship and employment in Development Regions (Center and South) with focus in Ungheni Cahul districts, aiming to identify gender-specific barriers and regional disparities in economic inclusion. The purpose was to assess women’s labour market integration, wage equality, access to assets, and potential for entrepreneurship within local and national development programs. Findings reveal that women account for the majority of the employed population, yet they are concentrated in service sectors and remain underrepresented in higher-paying fields such as agriculture, construction, and ICT. Informal employment is particularly widespread among rural women, limiting access to stable income and social protection. Limited ownership of agricultural land and property further constrains women’s access to credit and entrepreneurial resources. The study concludes that addressing these inequalities requires gender-responsive policies, inclusive business support services, and targeted measures to expand women’s entrepreneurial opportunities.

Keywords: women entrepreneurship, gender gap, gender-disaggregated indicators, gender-specific barriers, gender sensitive approach.

QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AS A BASIS FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF THE STATE AND COMPETITIVENESS OF ENTERPRISES

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The relevance of the work is due to the global challenges of digital changes and socio-demographic crises that undermine the economic sustainability of different countries and the competitiveness of national enterprises. High-quality employment is a crucial prerequisite for the economic sustainability of the state and the competitiveness of enterprises. The purpose of the study is to analytically assess various aspects of employment quality, primarily the type of contract, working conditions and social protection.

Research methods. The study was conducted using structural and functional analysis, and expert opinions. The analytical assessment was based on data from international organizations and sociological surveys.

The article examines aspects of employment quality, such as models of labor contracts, working hours, and reasons for precarious work. The features of part-time employment, temporary work, employment on digital platforms, etc. are outlined. It is proved that the organization of working time is an important factor in the productivity of enterprises, which determines their ability to meet fluctuations in demand and at the same time retain the required number of employees with appropriate working conditions for quality employment. The author emphasizes the impact of informal labor relations and digital technologies on such an aspect of employment quality as social protection.

Keywords: part-time employment, temporary work, employment on digital platforms, quality of employment.

FROM RECEIVING TO INITIATING CHANGE: THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP TRIO IN THE EUROPEAN RESTRUCTURING LANDSCAPE

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This study investigates the dual role of the Eastern Partnership Trio — Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine — in the European restructuring landscape, drawing on data from Eurofound's European Restructuring Monitor (ERM). The analysis covers multiple restructuring types, including bankruptcy, business expansion, closure, internal restructuring, merger/acquisition, offshoring/delocalisation, outsourcing, relocation, and reshoring. Using original ERM variables such as type of restructuring, sector classification (NACE), geographical codes (NUTS), employment impact (jobs lost, jobs created), and temporal markers, the study identifies cases where the Trio acts both as an “affected” location and as an “initiating” source of restructuring events. Descriptive statistics and trend analyses reveal distinct patterns: while Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine often appear as destinations for offshoring and relocation from EU Member States — particularly in manufacturing — they also generate restructuring flows outward, especially in periods of economic or geopolitical stress. Sectoral breakdowns highlight concentration in textiles, automotive components, and food processing, with employment effects varying by restructuring type. Temporal analysis shows peaks aligning with major economic shocks and policy shifts. These findings contribute to understanding the Trio's evolving position in European industrial change and offer policy-relevant insights for managing structural transformation, labour market resilience, and integration into EU value chains.

Keywords: Eastern Partnership Trio, European restructuring, labour market resilience

THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND FINTECH ON TRADE ROUTE MANAGEMENT

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Objective: This study explores the digital impact of transformation and fintech applications on global trade route management. It focuses on how traditional trade Models have evolved with digitalization and examines Fintech's role in logistics payment systems and risk management.

Significance: Efficient and sustainable trade routes are crucial for economic growth in a globalized world. Digitalization and fintech enhance supply chains by reducing costs, increasing transparency and simplifying international trade finance. This study provides strategic recommendations for policy makers and businesses by analyzing the role of digital Technologies in trade management.

Scope: The research addresses Blockchain integration technologies, smart contracts, digital payment systems, and AI-driven logistics solutions. It specifically examines their applications in key trade corridors such as the Black Sea, the Middle Corridor, and the New Silk Road.

Methodology: This qualitative study reviews existing literature case studies and industry reports on digital transformation in trade. It compares fintech applications across regions analyzing best practices challenges and Expert Opinions to provide insights into practical implications.

Challenges: Traditional trade management faces inefficiencies high transaction costs and security risks. Digital Transformation is hindered by Adaptation issues regulatory gaps and cybersecurity threats.

Prevalence: Fintech solutions are rapidly expanding in development regions. Digital payment platforms and blockchain based supply chain management are increasingly used in Asia Africa and Europe.

Conclusion: Digital Transformation and fintech improve trade route management by Offering Greater efficiency security and cost reduction though challenges such as infrastructure gaps and regulation issues remain.

Keywords: Digital Transformation Fintech Trade Route Management, Blockchain Technology Logistics Optimization

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INNOVATION AS DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS

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This study explores the interrelationship between economic resilience, competitiveness, digitalization, and entrepreneurship, emphasizing their significance in sustaining growth under global uncertainties. The purpose of the research is to examine how digital transformation, coupled with entrepreneurial innovation, contributes to strengthening economic systems and enhancing competitive advantages at both national and organizational levels.

The methodology adopts a mixed approach, combining a review of recent empirical studies with a comparative analysis of international case examples from emerging and developed economies. Particular attention is given to the role of digital technologies in fostering adaptive business models, facilitating access to global markets, and enabling innovative responses to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical disruptions.

Key findings indicate that economies with higher levels of digital readiness and entrepreneurial activity demonstrate greater capacity to absorb shocks, maintain productivity, and adapt to rapidly changing environments. Furthermore, digital entrepreneurship is shown to be a catalyst for competitiveness by promoting innovation, efficiency, and inclusiveness.

The study concludes that fostering digital capabilities and entrepreneurial ecosystems is vital for policymakers aiming to achieve sustainable economic resilience and long-term competitiveness in the digital era.

Keywords: digital transformation, entrepreneurial innovation, economic resilience, competitiveness, digital entrepreneurship

DIGITAL INCLUSION & INNOVATION FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: EMPOWERING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN MOLDOVA

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This presentation explores how digital innovation can enhance economic resilience and inclusive development in rural Moldova by empowering small-scale farmers within community ecosystems. Its purpose is to analyze the potential of digital enablers—such as e-advisory platforms, e-learning tools, and blockchain-based value chain transparency—to support inclusive entrepreneurship and competitiveness. The methodology combines a literature review of FAO-supported initiatives for Moldovan smallholders with a comparative case study approach and interviews with local agri-entrepreneurs and digital service providers. Key findings reveal that tailored digital tools significantly increase access to market information, input sourcing, and financial services, boosting farm incomes and social inclusion while mitigating demographic decline in rural areas. The research also identifies critical barriers—digital infrastructure gaps, low digital literacy, and regulatory framework—that constrain different level of entrepreneurship development, especially in rural communities. The conclusion highlights that integrating digital innovation into community-driven development not only enhances individual competitiveness but fosters demographic resilience and social equity. Strategic public-private collaboration and targeted capacity building emerge as essential. Recommendations focus on policy frameworks and partnership models to scale digital inclusion across Moldova's rural communities. The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: digitalization, innovation, community development, rural entrepreneurship, small-scale farming, resilience, competitiveness

THE IMPACT OF THE ICT SECTOR ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The purpose of the research is to evaluate and analyze the impact of the ICT sector on the economic competitiveness of the Republic of Moldova. Research objectives: To examine conceptual aspects related to the ICT sector and economic competitiveness at the national and international levels, to analyze the evolution of the ICT sector in the Republic of Moldova, comparing it with Estonia and other leading countries in terms of competitiveness.

Results: assessment of the ICT sector's contribution to national GDP, identification of the main challenges and opportunities for the development of the ICT sector in the Republic of Moldova, proposal of measures to improve economic competitiveness.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”.

Keywords: competitiveness, information technology, economic growth, global innovation index

TOBACCO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: MAIN TRENDS

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In the last years the tobacco product manufacturing industry in the Republic of Moldova has experienced important transformations. In particular, in 2019-2023, the sector has consolidated its market position and reorientated towards foreign markets. In this paper we aim to analyse the evolution of manufacture of tobacco products sector, based on the data from the financial reports of the companies. The main findings reveal a 33.3% reduction in the number of enterprises, while sales revenues increased by 70% compared to 2019, reaching MDL 276.3 million in 2023. The value of industrial production increased by 76.7% from MDL 139.2 million to MDL 246.0 million. The sector is dominated by three major companies controlling 81.3% of the market: 'TUTUN-CTC', 'BT-TABAC HOLDING' and 'AGOS GREEN'. The labor force is concentrated in medium-sized companies that account for 89% of the workforce and generate 99.9% of revenues. A significant shift occurred in the structure of deliveries - from an increasing dependence on the domestic market (99.5% in 2021) to a rapid reorientation towards exports (37.7% in 2023), indicating a strategic diversification of markets and a reduction of risks associated with dependence on the domestic market.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”.

Keywords: tobacco industry, exports, market concentration

THE INTEGRATION OF SMART TECHNOLOGIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PARKS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The adoption of smart technologies in photovoltaic parks in the Republic of Moldova represents a critical step toward the energy transition and the strengthening of national energy security. These technologies include advanced monitoring systems, automated control, intelligent energy storage, and integration with smart grids. Their implementation contributes to improved operational efficiency, real-time energy production optimization, and reduction of energy losses.

Recent studies show that the use of smart solutions enables predictive performance analysis of equipment, preventing failures and extending the lifespan of investments. At the same time, the integration of digital technologies into the photovoltaic sector facilitates data-driven managerial decisions and enhances the attractiveness of such projects for investors. In the context of the Republic of Moldova, the adoption of these solutions is supported by the continuous decrease in the cost of solar technology, as well as by the regulatory framework being aligned with European standards. Moreover, smart technologies support better integration of renewable energy into the national grid, contributing to decarbonization and sustainability goals.

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Keywords: renewable sources, stability, security, energy.

ASPECTS REGARDING DIGITALIZATION IN ROMANIA – A TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS

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Against the trends of globalization and structural changes in the economy, digitalization is acquiring greater significance, bringing important benefits in all areas of economic and social life. The significant expansion of access to high-speed internet, combined with the implementation of information technologies, creates the framework for providing quality services in a much shorter time, with important effects on service providers and, above all, on their users. Based on these considerations, this paper aims to conduct a territorial analysis of the degree of digitalization in terms of the use of the ghiseul.ro platform, dedicated to the payment of local taxes and other taxpayers' debts to the state or local budgets.

Keywords: digitalization, Romania, territorial analysis, E-government services

THE APPLICABILITY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: TIME MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYEES

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Technology has become the reality in which every day is shaped, so artificial intelligence no longer belongs to science specialists, but is part of professional life, intervenes in choices, in the pace of work, in the way professional relationships are carried out. Entrepreneurship, as a driver of initiative and change, is no exception. Based on a qualitative analysis of recent literature in the fields of technology, entrepreneurship, and organizational psychology, relevant AI applications in task automation, decision optimization, and efficient organization of daily activities are identified. The article summarizes the ways in which artificial intelligence can intervene to support entrepreneurs in managing one of the most valuable resources of the present – time, as well as the psychological implications of interactions with artificial intelligence from stress and adaptability, to resilience and trust. The conclusions contribute to the current debate on the ethical and sustainable transformation of entrepreneurship, providing directions for future research and putting people at the center of innovation.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Digital Entrepreneurship, Time Management, Employees, Psychological Impact, Efficiency

RISK MANAGEMENT IN E-COMMERCE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MOLDOVAN MARKET

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The development of e-commerce is one of the main drivers of economic and digital transformation globally, offering significant opportunities to increase the economic competitiveness of the Republic of Moldova. This article highlights both the potential of e-commerce in the context of the national economy and the challenges associated with its widespread adoption. The paper addresses, from a theoretical and practical perspective, the issue of risk management in e-commerce. The main categories of risks are analyzed—cyber (phishing attacks, malware...), operational (platform disruptions, infrastructure vulnerabilities), financial and reputational. Based on the methodological framework for risk assessment, the critical points of the online transaction chain are identified and measures to mitigate risk exposure are proposed: developing and implementing cybersecurity policies, using multi-factor authentication methods, real-time transaction monitoring, and integrating artificial intelligence-based systems for anomaly detection and prevention. The research results highlight strategic opportunities for small enterprises in the Republic of Moldova to adopt advanced risk management practices, thereby strengthening consumer confidence and creating a competitive advantage in international markets. The article's conclusions support the idea that accelerating digital transformation and developing a secure e-commerce ecosystem will contribute to the formation of an inclusive digital society, where electronic services become accessible to all citizens and the business environment.

Keywords: digital transformation, e-commerce, risk management, Republic of Moldova

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SMALL TOWNS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: A MODEL OF INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ACCELERATION

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The digital transformation of cultural heritage in small towns of the Republic of Moldova is gaining increasing importance in the context of regional development, European integration, and the formulation of innovation-oriented policies. This study explores the potential of interregional and cross-border cooperation in rethinking and preserving local cultural heritage using digital tools and entrepreneurial approaches. Employing a mixed methodology - including case analysis of EU-funded projects, stakeholder interviews, and comparative research - the study identifies key mechanisms for the successful digitization of cultural initiatives. The analysis demonstrates that the digitization of cultural heritage not only preserves and reuses cultural resources but also stimulates innovation, creative industries, and civic engagement. Based on the findings, a conceptual model is proposed that integrates digital tools, cultural mapping, and creative entrepreneurship acceleration. Sustainable development in this sector is achievable through active cooperation between public authorities, the private sector, and local communities. The proposed model is scalable and may be implemented through interregional networks and targeted support programs.

Keywords: digital heritage, small towns, cultural transformation, interregional cooperation, creative economy, entrepreneurial ecosystem, cultural mapping, digital storytelling

SMART SPECIALIZATION AND REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS: INTEGRATING BAK S3 AND RHOMOLO METHODOLOGIES FOR MOLDOVA AND EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

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In the context of Moldova's European integration efforts, regional development policies require alignment with EU best practices in smart specialization (S3), innovation, and territorial cohesion. This paper proposes a combined application of the BAK S3 diagnostic model and the RHOMOLO spatial computable general equilibrium (CGE) model to support Moldova's Smart Moldova 2030 strategy. The integration of data-driven diagnostics, participatory processes like Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP), and spatial policy modelling is proposed in a four-stage plan, which may be extended to other Eastern Partnership countries. This approach strengthens institutional coordination, improves investment planning, and enhances competitiveness at the regional level.

Keywords: Smart Moldova 2030, smart specialization, BAK S3, RHOMOLO, EDP, regional policy, RIS4DANUBE, regional competitiveness, Eastern Partnership, cohesion policy

THE ROLE OF THE CASPIC REGION IN THE ENERGETIC SECURITY OF EU

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The Caspian region is pivotal to the European Union's energy security strategy due to its large hydrocarbon endowment, strategic transit position, and growing potential for low-carbon energy. This paper synthesizes the region's energy profile (oil and gas reserves, major export corridors, and emerging LNG options) and maps the EU's cooperation toolkit: diversification of sources and routes via the Southern Gas Corridor (SCP–TANAP–TAP), infrastructure upgrades and interconnections under TEN-E, regulatory convergence, and investment/technology transfer for renewables and efficiency. A focused case study on EU–Azerbaijan energy relations highlights how expanding Caspian gas exports can mitigate supply risk, strengthen market competition, and deepen economic ties, while raising governance, environmental, and geopolitical considerations along transit chains. The analysis also outlines avenues to scale solar, wind, hydro, and efficiency programs in Caspian economies - complementing gas diversification with decarbonization. Results indicate that a balanced policy mix - secure gas flows in the medium term plus accelerated clean-energy deployment and efficiency - offers the most resilient path for the EU, provided that infrastructure, standards, and diplomacy evolve coherently across stakeholders in the EU–Caspian space.

Keywords: energy security, Southern Gas Corridor, diversification, pipelines, LNG, renewables, energy efficiency

DIGITAL PROCUREMENT TRANSFORMATION AND STRATEGY

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Digital transformation is impacting every part of the business world, from enhancing business-critical operations to restructuring long-standing work models. The technology is becoming today more and more essential in the field of public procurement, the implementation of E-procurement represents a modern and digital solution, addressing the needs of updating and efficiency. This article is for business leaders, procurement managers, and digital transformation experts who are ready to transform their procurement. This article looks at how digital procurement platforms work, the key technologies that support them, the benefits they bring, their implementation, and which procurement software will lead the market in 2025. In this article, the author used the monographic method, trend analysis, synthesis and comparative analysis. The introduction of digital procurement can bring significant benefits by simplifying procedures, reducing the risk of corruption and increasing competitiveness in public procurement.

Keywords: public procurement, digital procurement, public resources, integrity, transparency, efficiency, efficiency, security.

PERFORMANCE-BASED PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AS A TOOL FOR ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS

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In the context of accelerated economic and institutional transformations, public administrations must enhance resilience and competitiveness while ensuring effective resource allocation. This paper examines how performance-based public management (PBM), with particular reference to the Republic of Moldova in the process of European integration, can serve as a strategic instrument for strengthening institutional capacity and supporting sustainable economic development. Drawing on OECD and EU frameworks, as well as recent reforms in Moldova and other emerging economies, the study highlights the connection between performance budgeting, digital transformation, and evidence-based policy making.

The methodology is based on a comparative analysis of international practices and national reforms, supported by performance indicators derived from public financial management and service delivery systems. The findings suggest that PBM fosters transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the public sector, directly contributing to economic resilience and competitiveness. Furthermore, the integration of digital tools in monitoring and evaluation enhances policy coherence and supports innovation in governance.

By combining international lessons with national examples, the paper argues that adopting PBM frameworks not only improves administrative effectiveness but also creates a more predictable and competitive environment for economic actors, positioning PBM as a cornerstone of resilient governance and sustainable growth.

Keywords: Performance-Based Management; Public Administration; Economic Resilience; Competitiveness; Digital Transformation

APPLICABILITY OF THEORIES OF COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR ENTERPRISES OF THE GAGAUZ REGION

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In the context of increasing global competition, companies and regions are faced by the need to identify sustainable sources of competitive advantage. One of the most influential approaches is the Resource-Based View (RBV) - a theory focused on the internal resources and capabilities of an organization. In the European context, RBV is particularly useful for assessing the competitiveness of small innovative enterprises, clusters and regional ecosystems in combination with other theories for a more comprehensive assessment of competitive strategies at the enterprise and regional level, as well as theories of dynamic capabilities and interfirm interaction. According to the Relational View theory, proposed as an extension of the resource-based approach, sustainable competitive advantage can be formed not only within the company, but also through relationships with external partners-suppliers, customers, allies. Relational resources and joint investments in unique relationships can create „interorganizational rents” that are inaccessible to individual companies, an important element of competitive advantage in this case is idea, and the value is created in network interaction that cannot be fully appropriated by one party. The Institutional Complementarity Theory or Composition Based View (CBV) is applicable to European small and medium sized enterprises, especially in peripheral regions. According this theory, firms without unique resources can create competitive advantages through creative combination of open resources and integrations of foreign components. The article presents a critical analysis of modern theories of competitive advantage of enterprises, shows the main indicators of innovation activity of the region and draws conclusions about the applicability of modern theories.

Keywords: theories, competitive advantage, enterprises, global competition

TRANSFORMING MARKETING MANAGEMENT IN B2B WITH EVIDENCE FROM MOLDOVA

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This study investigates how Moldovan B2B companies manage their marketing activities, focusing on how traditional management functions—planning, organisation, motivation, and control—are adapted under digital transformation. Through in-depth interviews with managers and marketers from three leading firms in the construction sector, the research uncovers common practices and unique strategies in managing marketing efforts. The results indicate that while companies actively use CRM systems, social media marketing, and cross-marketing techniques to foster long-term relationships and enhance market positions, strategic planning often remains shortsighted, and digital tools are used only sporadically. Weaknesses include the poor integration of CRM and ERP systems, underuse of predictive analytics, and the lack of comprehensive KPI systems. The study shows that marketing management in Moldovan B2B firms is at a transitional phase: traditional methods coexist with emerging digital practices, but there is considerable untapped potential. The article concludes with suggestions to improve long-term strategic planning, strengthen digital integration, develop employee skills in analytics and digital marketing, and establish effective control and monitoring systems to boost competitiveness in the B2B sector.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”.

Keywords: marketing management, B2B companies, digital transformation, CRM systems, Moldova

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND THE BALANCING OF THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS SYSTEM

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Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the central indicator of a country's economic activity, widely used to measure the overall performance of national economies. It represents the monetary value of all final goods and services produced within a country's borders over a specific period, usually a quarter or a year. Unlike measures of production that focus on specific industries or regions, GDP provides a comprehensive snapshot of economic output and is therefore regarded as the most important aggregate in national accounting.

The importance of GDP lies in its dual role. First, it serves as a quantitative measure of economic performance, allowing comparisons across time and between countries. Second, it functions as a basis for policymaking, as governments, central banks, and international organizations rely on GDP dynamics to assess economic stability, set fiscal and monetary policies, and design development strategies.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the most widely used indicator of a country's economic performance, representing the total value of all final goods and services produced within a given period. Economists apply three principal approaches to calculate GDP: the production approach, the expenditure approach, and the income approach. While these methods differ in perspective, they are theoretically consistent and should arrive at the same aggregate value.

Keywords: Output, gross domestic product, production approach, expenditure approach, income approach

SECTORAL COMPETITIVENESS AS A DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND RESILIENCE

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The competitiveness of economic sectors is a critical factor for sustainable development and resilience in the face of global challenges. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the main drivers and barriers of sectoral competitiveness, with emphasis on small open economies, particularly the Republic of Moldova. The methodology combines a comparative analytical approach with the review of secondary statistical data and policy documents, enabling the identification of structural patterns and sector-specific challenges.

The analysis highlights key sectors such as agriculture and agri-food, information technology, energy, and tourism. Findings show that Moldova has comparative advantages in IT services and agri-food production with potential for value-added exports. However, systemic constraints persist, including low productivity, limited technological upgrading, weak infrastructure, and continuous labor migration. At the same time, opportunities emerge from digitalization, renewable energy development, and integration into European value chains.

The paper concludes that enhancing competitiveness requires coherent policies focused on innovation, entrepreneurship, skills development, and digital transformation. Public-private partnerships and targeted investments are essential to accelerate progress, strengthen resilience, and align sectoral performance with sustainable development goals and the EU integration agenda.

Keywords: sectoral competitiveness, sustainable growth, economic resilience

SESSION II

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND MODERNIZATION IN FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS CATTLE SECTOR THROUGH INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES

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Being at the stage of 25 years since the completion of the agricultural reform in the Republic of Moldova, it is logical to summarize some successes, as well as some shortcomings, of these radical changes in local agriculture. According to the unanimous opinion of scholars (experts), the most obvious success of the aforementioned reform is the essential increase in the labor productivity of local agriculture in the post-privatization years. If at the beginning of this period (2000) each farmer processed on average only 2.86 ha of agricultural land annually, then towards its end this area constituted (also on average) already 11.6 ha or 4.1 times more. Also, as the analysis shows, during the post-reform years, for example, the number of large horned cattle decreased by almost 4.33 times, including the number of dairy cows – by 4.5 times, which caused a decrease in the annual volume of milk production by 2.7 times. Given that it is the branch of large horned cattle that constitutes a real basis of the optimal consumption basket of an individual, contributing 12.6 percent to the formation of this basket in energy values (Kcal) and/or 32.0 percent in the monetary evaluation of this basket, such dramatic decreases in the livestock of large horned cattle practically canceled the export of the respective products from the country and (correspondingly) caused an enormous increase in imports, primarily from Western countries, where the respective prices are traditionally much higher compared to analogous prices in the Republic of Moldova.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: cattle sector, agrarian reform, labor productivity, growth dynamics, subsidies, investments

ROMANIAN MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS NEGATIVE TRADE BALANCE – WHERE DOES THE CHAIN FAIL?

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Romania's accession to the EU meant the adoption of the common policies also in the milk and dairy sector, as well as free circulation of such products in the Single Market, while observing the quality and food safety regulations. Despite the various support measures for the sector, the raw milk production decreased by 25% in the past years since accession. After quota abolishment, the quantities of processed milk increased constantly. Yet, the growing consumption and the lower prices of milk in other Member States resulted in a steady increase in imports and consequently in a larger negative trade balance for milk and dairy products. The present paper is analyzing the changes in the Romanian international trade with milk and dairy products in the post-accession period, in relation with the upstream stages of the supply chain - production, processing and consumption.

Keywords: dairy products, milk, trade balance, value chain, Romania

CALCULATION MODEL FOR CARBON EMISSIONS IN CEREAL AGRICULTURE

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This paper aims to assess the total greenhouse gas emissions associated with the cultivation of wheat, corn and sunflower in Romania, by applying a calculation model based on specific emission factors. The analysis is based on official statistical data provided by the NIS, regarding the cultivated areas and productions obtained for wheat, corn and sunflower in Romania, during the period 2020–2024 and international reference sources for establishing emission factors. For each crop analyzed, greenhouse gas emissions were estimated by applying a simplified calculation model, according to IPCC recommendations. The model is aggregated and does not take into account detailed regional or technological differences (e.g. irrigated vs. non-irrigated, conventional vs. organic farming), but allows for a consistent comparison at the national level between crops and years. The conclusion is that the 3 crops contribute approximately 31% of total agricultural and agri-food emissions in 2024, up from 2023. Corn remains the main source of emissions from the crop sector, representing over 17.5% of the total. The 5% decrease in total emissions reflects the reduction in cultivated areas (especially corn), lower yields, and the slow transition to more sustainable practices.

Keywords: circular economy, carbon emissions, environmental impact, wheat, corn and sunflower

PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRARIAN SECTOR OF AZERBAIJAN IN ENSURING FOOD SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY

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In the article, the author notes that in recent years, international economic processes occurring throughout the world have acquired a global character and have had a significant impact on the economy of Azerbaijan. In the study, issues based on strengthening the degree of economic security in the world community, protecting domestic agricultural producers, increasing the competitiveness of the agrarian and food market have acquired great relevance. The purpose of the study is to develop theoretical, methodological and practical approaches to increasing the level of socio-economic security through the development of the agrarian and food market, since the agricultural sector, being a strategic sector of the country's economy, reflects a multifaceted system in which its activities occur under the influence of natural and climatic, social and economic laws. The subject of the study is the agrarian and food market of the country, which is the basis of the system of reliability of providing the population at the micro and macro levels of national security. The result of the study is innovation in the agricultural sector, ensuring the competitiveness of the level of national security of the country through the development of the food market through local production based on innovative development.

Keywords: food security, agrarian sector, Azerbaijan, socio-economic security

PUBLIC POLICIES FAVORABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASSOCIATIVE FORMS IN THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM IN ROMANIA

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The complexity and diversity of the agri-food system, as well as the transformations that the economy and society must make towards a sustainable future in the long term, require collective actions, with an important role being played by producer organizations and agricultural cooperatives, autonomous and voluntary associations formed by several people, which represent a type of enterprise with a dual purpose, economic and social. Current agricultural cooperatives in Romania were established after the advent of Law no. 566, 2004. The pace of annual registrations of agricultural cooperatives at the National Trade Register Office has varied quite a lot, being influenced, first of all, by public policies with an impact on their development. Of these, the most important have proven to be those that regulate the fiscal facilities that agricultural cooperatives and their members can benefit from, such as exemption from various types of taxes (for buildings and land; on profit; on income; on rent, etc.). Currently, agricultural cooperatives play an important role in the agri-food system in Romania, holding almost a third of primary agricultural production and a quarter of the distribution and valorization of agri-food products, and it is imperative to maintain those public policies that are favorable to their future development.

Keywords: agricultural cooperatives, producer organizations, public policies, fiscal facilities.

THE HISTORY AND DYNAMICS OF RICE IN ROMANIA

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Rice became an important ingredient in the Romanian cuisine under Greek and Turkish influences during the last centuries of the Ottoman Empire presence in the Balkans. Recently, after 1989, rice cultivation and production collapsed, due to several contributing factors such as: import liberalization, land fragmentation and restitution to former owners as result of agricultural cooperatives dismantling, reorientation of crops with high degree of mechanization and international competitiveness (such as wheat, maize, sunflower and rapeseeds), and land grabbing by foreign companies and joint ventures.

In this context, the present paper examines the current situation, the evolution of entrepreneurship in rice cultivation in Romania, and makes a comparative analysis of productivity by farm size, based on the statistical data provided by the National Institute of Statistics from Romania and EUROSTAT. In the end, the authors share a set of conclusions and recommendations on the opportunity to transform tradition into a successful business.

Keywords: rice, agricultural sector, productivity, Romania

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ROMANIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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The paper comparatively analyzes agricultural sustainability and rural modernization in Romania and the Republic of Moldova, two countries with common historical roots but distinct economic and institutional trajectories. The study uses official statistical data, international reports and specialized literature to assess differences in productivity, access to finance, resource use and implementation of modern agricultural technologies. The results highlight that Romania benefits from European support through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and is rapidly adopting sustainable practices, while the Republic of Moldova faces structural and financial limitations that affect the efficiency and sustainability of the agricultural sector. The study proposes measures to consolidate farms, digitalize processes and streamline natural resources, providing a basis for balanced rural policies.

Keywords: sustainable agriculture, rural modernization, Common Agricultural Policy, Romania, Republic of Moldova, rural development

THE PECULIARITIES OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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This paper addresses employment in the oldest sector of activity in the world – agriculture. Over the years, the agricultural sector has been one of the priority areas of the Moldovan economy. In recent years, agriculture in the Republic of Moldova has undergone major transformations, which have had a direct impact on the structure of the labor force. The major changes that have taken place in the agricultural sector in the Republic of Moldova have not led to a decrease in the level of employment. In most cases, employment in agriculture is involuntary, due to the lack of employment alternatives in rural areas. Moldova is characterized by a high level of employment in agriculture, which makes this sector less efficient compared to others. Informal employment in agriculture is high, with limited possibilities for identification. Self-employed workers and unpaid family workers are the most common forms of employment in the Republic of Moldova. In most cases, these categories of workers do not have the necessary qualifications to carry out agricultural activities, which is why they suffer in terms of agricultural productivity. The database for analyzing employment in the agricultural sector in the Republic of Moldova consists of statistical data provided by the National Bureau of Statistics. The results show a high level of employment in agriculture. Informal employment in agriculture is prevalent in the Republic of Moldova, largely due to the lack of job stability.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: employment, agricultural sector, Republic of Moldova, informal employment

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE TREND AND PERSPECTIVE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN RECENT YEARS

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The article examines the evolution of key agricultural crops in the Republic of Moldova from 2015 to 2024, focusing on trends in productivity and cultivated areas. Using a combination of statistical data analysis, regression modeling and regional comparison, the research reveals contrasting trajectories for crops like wheat, maize, sunflower and sugar beet, influenced by climatic conditions and institutional shortcomings. The findings underline the vulnerability of the sector, the need for modernization of infrastructure and support systems, and call for strategic reforms to enhance resilience and sustainability.

Keywords: sustainable agriculture, climate change, agricultural policies, productivity, rural modernization, Republic of Moldova, resilience.

BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY ON THE SITUATION OF PROTEIC CROPS IN ROMANIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

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The main purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive perspective, both nationally and internationally, on the importance of the topic of protein plants. The research was structured in two complementary stages; in the first part, the focus was on a quantitative analysis based on the processing and interpretation of statistical data related to protein plants, information extracted from the WoS database. Subsequently, in the second stage, a qualitative analysis was carried out, focusing on the studies and articles identified in the same database. Through this detailed analysis, this study aims to highlight current trends, identify major challenges, and explore opportunities for sustainable development in this vital sector. This approach contributes to a deeper understanding of the importance of these crops in the agricultural economy and to identifying viable solutions for strengthening their competitiveness. Both in Romania and at the level of the European Union, these crops are gaining more and more attention due to their strategic role; however, their development can be influenced by economic, climatic, and political factors that shape the market and available opportunities. Romania benefits from favorable natural conditions for growing protein plants, and the increasing global demand for plant-based products opens up new economic perspectives. The study identifies the factors that determine the performance of this sector and analyzes the differences between Romania and the European Union.

Keywords: protein plants, quantitative analysis, qualitative analysis

STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY BY DEVELOPING ASSOCIATION AND COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND OPTIMIZING THE VALUE CHAIN IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The purpose of this research is to examine the relationship between food safety and the current level of association and cooperation in agriculture, as well as how the functionality of the value chain influences the competitiveness and sustainability of the agri-food sector in the Republic of Moldova. The methodology used is based on the statistical analysis of sectoral data, the evaluation of national and European public policies, as well as the comparative study of international good practices. The opinions of farmers and actors involved in the value chain are also investigated through qualitative surveys and interviews. The main findings show that the low degree of association and cooperation limits the access of agricultural producers to external markets, modern technologies and sources of financing, which affects the competitiveness and quality of products. At the same time, the lack of consolidated value chains reduces the ability to comply with international food safety standards. In contrast, where there are functional cooperatives and partnerships, there is a better integration of production with quality requirements, an increase in farmers' incomes and a direct contribution to food security. The main conclusion is that the development of agricultural cooperatives and the optimization of value chains are determining factors for increasing the resilience of the agricultural sector and strengthening food security in the Republic of Moldova.

Keywords: food security, association, cooperation, value chain, Republic of Moldova

WORK PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS IN BIOECONOMY: ROMANIA VERSUS THE EUROPEAN UNION

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This paper aims to analyze the size and performance of the labor force in the bioeconomy sector, both at the level of the European Union and in Romania, with a focus on the evolution of labor productivity. The bioeconomy, as a strategic field of the green economy, integrates activities such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, the food industry, and biotechnology, occupying an important position in the ecological transition and efforts toward economic sustainability. At the European level, the bioeconomy sector contributes significantly to the EU's GDP, providing jobs for over 17 million people, with labor productivity showing an upward trend over the past two decades. Romania, on the other hand, faces major challenges: a constant decline in the active workforce employed in the bioeconomy, productivity levels below the EU average, and a dominant agricultural sector with low economic efficiency. The paper highlights these disparities and underlines the importance of structural reforms, investments in technology, education, and vocational training as necessary solutions for increasing the competitiveness of Romania's bioeconomy. The sustainable development of the bioeconomy sector is closely linked to Romania's ability to efficiently harness its available human and natural resources.

Keywords: bioeconomy, labor force, productivity, ecological transition, economic sustainability

PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SMEs FROM AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD INDUSTRY

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Over the last decades, SMEs have become one of the most important sectors of economy in many countries. Similar to other countries, SMEs represent the majority of businesses in the Republic of Moldova. The agricultural sector remains a key and fundamental sector for Moldova as well. Still, the overlapping crises from the last years have affected SMEs operating in agriculture and food industry, limiting their performance and growth. In order to overpass the challenges it is necessary to take steps that will promote SMEs growth, which is essential for their sustainability and continuity of their economic activities. Starting from this reality, the primary aim of this research paper is to evaluate the economic performance and sustainability of SMEs from agricultural and food industry. In order to meet the aims and objectives of this paper, an analysis of secondary data resources will be carried out, using scientific methods, in particular logical methods, such as comparative analysis, synthesis, induction and deduction. The research will include a macro analysis of SMEs from Republic of Moldova, based on official data from national and international bodies. The research will also include the results from the most recent surveys and will be completed by the most recent data and references in this field of research and own reflections of the author.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: performance, sustainability, SMEs, agriculture, Republic of Moldova

FACILITATING CIRCULAR TRANSITION IN AGRICULTURE: EU FINANCIAL MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The integration of circular economy (CE) principles into the agricultural sector and related industries is strengthening, yet financial aspects that could enable broader adoption remain insufficiently explored. This study synthesizes the main outcomes of a systematic analysis, revealing both opportunities and barriers, particularly the limited access to funds for farmers and small enterprises. To address this constraint, we propose a concise overview of the main European funding opportunities. Adopting CE strategies in agriculture can improve farmer wellbeing and enhance local community welfare by diversifying markets and creating value-added products, while also contributing to natural resource conservation. Striking a balance between farm revenues and environmental protection aligns with key EU policy objectives, including the Green Deal, the Circular Economy Action Plan, and the Zero Pollution Action Plan. Accordingly, this paper emphasises suitable European funding opportunities to support the transition from conventional agricultural models towards circular, sustainable systems.

Keywords: circular economy, sustainable agriculture, funding opportunities, farmers wellbeing

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION IN THE ROMANIAN FOOD INDUSTRY: A METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK BASED ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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The food industry is a strategic pillar of the Romanian economy, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and national food security. In a context marked by globalisation, digitalisation, and increasing competitive pressures, performance assessment has become essential for maintaining competitiveness and ensuring sustainability. This article aims to propose an integrated framework for measuring performance in the food industry, with a particular focus on the bakery sector, by using Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and advanced statistical methods. The research objectives include: (1) reviewing the specialised literature and identifying the most relevant performance indicators; (2) developing an applicable model for organisational performance monitoring; and (3) testing hypotheses through empirical analysis of financial and operational data. The methodology combines bibliometric mapping, Pearson correlations, and regression analysis, supported by digital visualisation tools and the design of an integrated dashboard for real-time performance monitoring. The findings highlight the interdependencies between financial and operational indicators, providing a best-practice model for the food sector. The study concludes that KPIs serve not only as reporting instruments but also as strategic decision-making tools, supporting cost optimisation, profitability improvement, and enhanced competitiveness in the Romanian food industry.

Keywords: food industry, performance evaluation, Key Performance Indicators (KPI), Statistical analysis.

THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR AS A DRIVER OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The livestock sector in the Republic of Moldova, based on the strong tradition and current developments, plays an important role in the livelihood of population from rural areas, ensures food security and builds the economic resilience. The paper analyzes how livestock production contributes to enhancing the economic resilience by providing added value in the agricultural sector, how it responds to climate issues and its evolution as a result of introduction of direct payments, as a distinctive measure of public support. By applying a mixed-methods approach using statistical review and qualitative synthesis, the paper reflects the main mechanisms through which the livestock sector enhances economic resilience, namely diversification of household income, provision of value-chain linkages, high potential in increasing the added value of production. Major constraints in the sector concerning the declining in the number of animals in some years, fragmentation of farm structure, limited access to finance and veterinary services, as well as vulnerability to climate changes are also discussed. The findings are concluded with policy recommendations to strengthen the livestock–resilience through targeted social protection for livestock-dependent households, direct payments, improvement of veterinary services, and extension services and development of climate-smart practices.

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Keywords: livestock sector, Republic of Moldova, climate changes, public support

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE WINE SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The wine sector represents a strategic pillar of Moldova's national economy and a defining element of its international image, contributing significantly to rural incomes. However, it faces structural challenges related to climate change, market volatility, geopolitical instability, and insufficient sustainable investment. Modernization is therefore a strategic imperative, requiring coherent policies, efficient investments, and stronger public–private cooperation. Increasing productivity, meeting contemporary standards of quality and sustainability, and diversifying external markets demand investments in production reorganization, intensive and digitalized practices, and sustainable infrastructure. Based on a solid theoretical framework, this study analyzes investment strategies in the Moldovan wine sector and proposes a classification of modernization investments according to sustainability and economic efficiency, emphasizing those essential for long-term, intelligent development.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: wine sector, investment strategies, investments, modernization, sustainable investments.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND VEGETABLE FARMING: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE – REVIEW

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Agriculture is an important pillar for the population with a fundamental role in ensuring the food source for growing entities. Climate change is a confrontation with many challenges that manifest themselves through extreme phenomena manifested by high temperatures, heavy rainfall, hail and strong storms. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the structure of the specialized literature as a necessity in the scientific approach and to synthesize current research on the impact of extreme phenomena on the vegetable sector. The study is based on researching data from Web of Science sources where those that studied the impact of climate change on the vegetable sector were selected. The effects resulting from extreme phenomena are found on the yield and quality of products, affecting food safety.

Keywords: climate change, vegetable farming, literature analysis, environmental factors

ANALYSIS OF CROP PRODUCTION SECTOR VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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This study examines the effects of climate change on the Republic of Moldova's output of main crops as wheat, maize, and sunflower from 2007 to 2024. The research focuses on temperature and rainfall variations, highlighting these important crops' vulnerability and adaptability. The research is based on data from the National Bureau of Statistics and combines descriptive statistical methods with multiple regression modeling to assess the relationship between weather patterns and crop performance. The results show that sunflower is the most resilient crop, with low yield variability and a moderate correlation with precipitation. Wheat is sensitive to rainfall distribution, while corn is the most unstable crop, showing a weak correlation with the analyzed climatic factors. Precipitation significantly influences crop yields, while temperature has either negative or limited effects. The findings highlight the urgent need for adaptation through drought-resistant varieties, soil conservation technologies, and the expansion of irrigation infrastructure.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: agriculture, crop production, climate change, vulnerabilities.

STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES AND POLICY DYNAMICS IN MOLDOVA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR: A PATH TOWARD SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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The agricultural sector remains a cornerstone of Moldova's economy, yet it faces persistent structural and systemic challenges that hinder its sustainable growth. This paper presents a comprehensive analysis of Moldova's agricultural landscape, detailing the sector's composition—dominated by cereal crops, viticulture, and livestock branches such as dairy and poultry. It traces the evolution of agricultural production over recent decades, revealing stagnation and volatility driven by climate vulnerability, market access limitations, and institutional gaps. Key systemic issues are examined, including land fragmentation, underdeveloped irrigation infrastructure, and limited access to finance for smallholders. The study critically evaluates national agricultural policies, including subsidy mechanisms and government support programs, assessing their effectiveness in fostering resilience and competitiveness. The findings underscore the need for integrated policy reforms that align with EU standards, promote green innovation, and support rural livelihoods. By situating Moldova's agricultural challenges within the broader context of demographic resilience and sustainable development, the paper contributes to strategic discourse on rural transformation. Recommendations include enhancing irrigation systems, consolidating land holdings, and expanding financial instruments tailored to small-scale farmers. These insights aim to inform future policy directions and donor-funded initiatives targeting Moldova's agricultural modernization.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: structural challenges, sustainable rural development, Republic of Moldova, EU standards

ECOLOGIC AGRICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: ACCESS TO THE EU MARKET BETWEEN HARMONIZATION AND BARRIERS

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This paper examines the opportunities and challenges faced by the Republic of Moldova in integrating its organic agri-food products into the European Union market. Against the backdrop of growing EU consumer demand for clean, sustainable, and certified organic products, Moldova seeks to harness this potential through the alignment of its national legislation with EU regulations—particularly with the adoption of Law No. 237/2023 on organic production and product labeling. The study highlights progress, including the recognition of certification bodies and participation in international trade fairs, while also addressing significant barriers such as bureaucratic procedures, phytosanitary requirements, logistical constraints, and limited financial resources. Based on an analysis of the regulatory framework, statistical data, and relevant literature, the article emphasizes the need for stronger institutional support and a coherent strategy to promote organic agriculture as a driver of sustainable development and closer EU trade integration.

Keywords: agriculture, organic farming, farms, operators, exports

CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF THE PIG SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The pig sector in the Republic of Moldova is facing some serious challenges, related to economic, sanitary and public health aspects, as well as technological ones. All these challenges limit its potential of increasing competitiveness and hinder its resilient development. High volatility for pork prices and feed, reliance on imports, insufficient innovative and modern infrastructure and a great vulnerability to diseases make this sector susceptible to negative events and phenomena. At the same time, there are a series of opportunities for enhancing its sustainable evolution, mainly related to increasing of the local demand and consumption, public support in the shape of subsidies for creation of infrastructure, adoption of new innovative technologies and diversification of processed products. Thus, the paper analyzes the existing challenges and opportunities in the pig sector, reflecting the overview of the current directions for its resilient development.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: pig sector, challenges, opportunities, resilience, Republic of Moldova

IMPLEMENTATION OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY IN HORTICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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The increasing integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European market entails compliance with strict standards concerning food safety, product traceability, and transparency across agri-food value chains. This paper explores the role of blockchain technology as a transformative tool for addressing these challenges, ensuring traceability, enhancing consumer trust, and aligning Moldovan horticulture with EU requirements. The research applies a literature review, comparative analysis, and case study method, drawing on international practices (Walmart–IBM Food Trust, Carrefour, TE-FOOD Vietnam) and national regulatory frameworks (Food Safety Law No. 306/2018, ANSA). Results highlight four main opportunities for blockchain adoption: improved market access, brand development, logistics efficiency, and consumer confidence. However, challenges remain, such as input data quality, technological fragmentation, high costs for small producers, and governance requirements. The paper concludes that a phased implementation starting with pilot projects in apples, plums, and table grapes would create conditions for broader national-scale adoption. Blockchain is not a panacea but a catalyst for digital transformation of the horticultural supply chain, reinforcing Moldova's competitiveness in international markets.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: blockchain, horticulture, food safety, traceability, competitiveness, Moldova, digital transformation, supply chain

SESSION III

GREEN FINANCE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY SYNERGIES: A PAT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BANKING SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COUNTRY'S JOINING THE EUROZONE

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The scientific report clarifies the specifics of banking activities and the role of commercial banks for the development of the economy. The risks and challenges facing credit institutions in contemporary market conditions are characterized. The main indicators for assessing the financial condition of the banking sector are systematized. A dynamic analysis of its development in Bulgaria during the period 2015-2024 is carried out. The opportunities for increasing its efficiency and competitiveness in the context of the country's upcoming accession to the Eurozone are presented.

Keywords: banking activities, risks and challenges, development, Republic of Bulgaria.

INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH. EMPOWERING FINANCIAL INCLUSION, ENHANCING WELL-BEING, AND REDUCING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES

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This paper examines how innovative financial instruments—fintech, digital microfinance, and sustainable finance—promote financial inclusion, well-being, and the reduction of social inequalities. Using a mixed-methods approach, quantitative analysis of international datasets (Global Findex, World Bank, OECD) assesses links between financial access and social outcomes, while qualitative case studies and semi-structured interviews explore contextual factors in developed and emerging economies. Findings show that technological innovation expands access to financial services, but its impact depends on regulatory frameworks, financial literacy, and public-private collaboration. Effective models demonstrate that inclusive finance can reduce disparities, enhance social cohesion, and strengthen demographic resilience.

The study concludes that integrating innovative financial tools into holistic development strategies is crucial for sustainable, inclusive growth amid global uncertainties.

Keywords: innovative financial instruments, fintech solutions, sustainable finance, financial inclusion, social inequalities, society well-being.

ECONOMIC CONVERGENCE AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA UNDER THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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This study examines the structural transformation of the Republic of Moldova's economy in the context of European integration and the degree of economic convergence with the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. The analysis summarizes two key dimensions: real convergence, measured by dynamics in GDP per capita, GDP, and GVA structure, and nominal convergence, which is assessed using monetary and fiscal indicators over the period from 2000 to 2024. The methodology combines a comparative analysis of national and international statistical series (NBS, IMF, and World Bank) with β and σ convergence indicators, as well as econometric regressions to assess the relationship between GDP volatility and structural factors. It also uses a sustainability gap framework to estimate tax revenues. The results reveal significant discrepancies with CEE countries, stemming from structural vulnerabilities and real constraints. These include slow and fragile real and nominal convergence, which is constrained by low tax revenues, unstable inflation, and high dependence on external resources. Simultaneously, the economic potential of reducing these discrepancies is also highlighted, demonstrated by the Moldovan economy's ability to recover quickly from major shocks.

The conclusions emphasize the importance of resilient fiscal policy, structural diversification, and increased competitiveness in accelerating convergence.

This research was supported by a grant from the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, CNCS - UEFISCDI, project number PN-IV-P8-8.3-ROMD-2023-0052, within PNCDI IV.

Keywords: real convergence, nominal convergence, structural transformation, tax revenues.

DEPOSIT-RETURN SYSTEM ÎN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

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The implementation of a Deposit-Return System (DRS) is one of the most significant policy measures aimed at improving waste management and promoting circular economy practices. The aim of this study is to assess the potential advantages and disadvantages of introducing a DRS in the Republic of Moldova, where the system is planned to become operational in 2027. The research applies a mixed-methods approach, combining the analysis of European and national policy documents with consultations with stakeholders, including producers, recyclers, retailers and end-consumers. The results indicate that the DRS could significantly increase the collection and recycling rates of plastic, glass and aluminium packaging, reduce environmental pollution and encourage public engagement in sustainable practices. However, several challenges were identified, such as the large initial investments required for infrastructure, logistical barriers to national implementation and potential resistance from producers and consumers to cost and behavioural changes.

The research is part of Project 20.80012.7007.10SE "Analysis of the social impact of the recyclable packaging return guarantee system in the Republic of Moldova". The project is carried out by the research team of the National Institute for Economic Research (ASEM) and is funded by the National Agency for Research and Development (ANCD).

Keywords: deposit-return system, recycling, circular economy, advantages and disadvantages.

BETWEEN FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY: THE PLACE OF GREENWASHING IN THE PRESENT-DAY DEBATE

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This research presents an overview of the modern concept of food security and its connection with food safety. The research also analyzes the concept of greenwashing, its definition, evolution and context of the emergence of this phenomenon. The research methodology combined the analysis of specialized literature with the classification of types of greenwashing, focusing on its relationship with the areas of food security and food safety. This analysis allowed us to identify the role and place of greenwashing in the context of food security. The research results in the fact that the phenomenon of greenwashing has increased in recent years with the emphasis on sustainable development, healthy lifestyle, ecology, environmental protection. Thus, in these modern circumstances, a deceptive marketing practice appears, which consists in presenting companies or products as more environmentally responsible than they are in reality. This greenwashing practice includes advertising, transparency, access to information, labeling, etc. The research results highlighted the existence of a close correlation between food security and food safety, confirming that these two concepts cannot be analyzed separately. Greenwashing practices directly influence consumer perception, generating confusion and even irony of the messages transmitted by companies. Greenwashing acts as a significant impediment to achieving food security in the world, creating a false sense of ecological progress and undermining the effectiveness of genuine sustainability efforts.

This research was carried out within the framework of the project 25.80012.5107.10SE “The phenomenon of greenwashing in the context of food security in the Republic of Moldova: best practices and alignment with the European Union”, funded by the National Agency for Research and Development, Republic of Moldova.

Keywords: food security, food safety, greenwashing, sustainability, present-day debate.

FINANCING SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANIZATIONS IN ROMANIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Social economy in Romania has gained momentum in the last two decades, as a driving force for innovation, job creation, and community empowerment, positioning itself as a catalyst for inclusive growth and social progress. As for the social economy organizations (SEOs), they play a dual role: generating economic value while creating positive social impact by providing employment for disadvantaged groups, delivering essential social and educational services, building social capital, and strengthening local communities. To unlock their full potential, SEOs require reliable access to finance. The rise in the number of entities and the strengthening of their operational capacity, seen in recent years, reveal how essential targeted funding (including the “Support for the Social Economy” scheme or minimis aid programs) is for enabling the sector to scale up its activities and increase its impact in the Romanian economy. This research explores the financing opportunities available to SEOs in Romania and analyzes the key challenges and opportunities associated with the main types of funding. Using surveys and interviews with representative SEOs, our findings highlight a pressing need for a dedicated social investment fund to close financing gaps, scale proven models, and enhance productivity across the sector.

This research was carried out within the AFIN – Social Investment Fund project, financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund+ (ESF)/Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EaSI), contract no. 101189328 – AFIN. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Keywords: social economy organizations, funding, Romania, social investment fund.

HOW STATE AID POLICY FINANCES THE GREEN TRANSITION: EVIDENCE FROM ROMANIA

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The green transition is a long-term goal of the European Union (EU), aiming for environmentally sustainable economic development by boosting clean energy and green innovation across the internal market. Following the adoption of the Green Deal, Member States have been encouraged to implement green economic policies and support investments in sustainable technologies. Against this background, our paper investigates how State Aid policy has contributed to financing the green economy in the post-pandemic period. We focus on Romania as a case study, exploring both challenges and opportunities arising from the recently adopted Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework, which allows special derogations to support the green transition in all Member States. Methodologically, we conduct a comparative analysis using data from the EU State Aid Scoreboard to assess Romania's progress relative to EU targets and other Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. Our findings indicate that, although Romania recorded significant improvements in green financing during 2022-2023, there remains a need for a more targeted approach to fully align with EU green objectives and enhance its contribution to the green transition.

Keywords: green transition, State Aid, sustainable development, Romania, European Union, comparative analysis.

FINANCIAL MECHANISM FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: LINKING GREEN FINANCE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND CORPORATE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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The European Framework for sustainable development, together with financial mechanisms and the harmonisation of EU taxonomy and ESG/ESRS standards, are analysed as a driver of sustainable growth and a key promoter of transparency in capital markets. Financial mechanisms such as green bonds, sustainability-linked loans, carbon credit markets, and EU structural funds channel capital toward environmentally responsible projects. These instruments not only mobilise private and public investments but also enhance risk management, transparency, and long-term value creation, reinforcing the financial foundations of sustainable development.

This paper investigates the synergies between green finance and the circular economy as a catalyst for sustainable development, emphasising their impact on financial performance. Methodologically, the study employs the DuPont analysis framework to assess the financial performance of companies integrating green investment and circular practices. By decomposing return on equity into profitability, efficiency, and leverage components, the DuPont model provides insights into the channels through which sustainability-oriented strategies enhance financial outcomes. Companies adopting green finance and circular economy models achieve improved operational efficiency, optimised resource use, and reduced risk exposure, which are reflected in superior financial and environmental performance.

Keywords: financial mechanism, sustainable growth, green finance, circular economy, corporate financial performance.

INTEGRATING LIFE CYCLE COST OPTIMISATION WITH FINANCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE UNDER CSRD/ESRS STANDARDS

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Situated within the European sustainability architecture (CSRD/ESRS, EU taxonomy harmonisation), this paper reframes cost optimisation as a strategic lever, rather than short-term cost cutting, that supports circular economy practices and durable value creation. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the impact of cost optimisation on long-term financial performance and resilience. Methodologically, we operationalise cost through Life Cycle Costing (LCC/ELCC), computing project-level reductions in total life-cycle costs across design, production, use, maintenance, and end-of-life. We aggregate these into a company-level measure (DLCC/LCC0) and estimate its effects on financial outcomes as EBITDA margin, ROIC, cash conversion, and free cash flow over invested capital, using a matched panel difference-in-difference design complemented by event-study profiles. Mediation tests trace operational channels by linking decreases in energy, materials, and waste-disposal costs to financial improvements.

Higher optimisation based on the LCC method is associated with sustained gains in operating profitability and capital efficiency, alongside lower risk exposure over subsequent quarters. The study contributes an integrated measurement approach that aligns life-cycle cost management with CSRD/ESRS compatible KPIS, offering managers and investors a practical toolkit for evaluating projects that concurrently enhance financial outcomes and advance resource efficiency and climate objectives. This alignment ensures the relevance and applicability of the study to the current sustainability standards and practices.

Keywords: life cycle cost optimisation, financial performance, sustainability performance, CSRD, ESRS standards.

FINANCIAL-ACCOUNTING INFORMATION AS A STRATEGIC RESOURCE FOR DECISION-MAKING AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Financial accounting information, a fundamental resource in management and corporate governance, plays a crucial role in reducing uncertainty and providing essential support for assessing both performance and financial position. The specialised literature defines information as the outcome of a complex process of data processing and interpretation, aimed at reducing uncertainty and facilitating decision-making. Within this context, financial-accounting information acquires a strategic value, being recognised for its utility both internally and externally, through relevance, reliability, and faithful representation. Moreover, it contributes to organisational transparency and accountability, becoming indispensable in an increasingly globalised and complex economic environment. The fundamental qualitative characteristics—accurate and fair view, prudence, and relevance—enhance its strategic functions. At the same time, digitalisation through advanced technologies (ERP, AI, blockchain) increases the accessibility, accuracy, and timeliness of reporting. Consequently, financial-accounting information emerges as a decisive instrument for aligning organisations with stakeholders' demands and sustainability objectives, contributing to a modern and responsible reporting framework.

This paper explores the role and key characteristics of financial-accounting information, integrating both traditional and innovative perspectives, with a focus on their impact on decision-making processes and sustainable organisational development.

Keywords: financial-accounting information, strategic resource, decision-making, sustainability, corporate management.

INTERNAL PUBLIC AUDIT: FROM CONTROL MECHANISM TO STRATEGIC PARTNER IN PUBLIC SECTOR GOVERNANCE

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Internal public audit has evolved from a traditional accounting verification mechanism into a strategic governance tool within public institutions. This article aims to analyse the theoretical and practical foundations of internal public audit and to highlight its role in enhancing institutional efficiency, promoting transparency, and strengthening accountability in the use of public funds. The research objectives are: (1) to explore the main theories and paradigms underlying internal public audit (agency theory, stakeholder theory, legitimacy theory); (2) to identify the regulatory framework and professional principles governing audit activity (independence, objectivity, integrity); (3) to analyze operational methodologies, with a focus on risk assessment, audit planning, and monitoring the implementation of recommendations; and (4) to examine the impact of new digital technologies on audit processes. The research methodology relies on critical analysis of the specialized literature, review of the international regulatory framework, and comparative evaluation of internal audit practices in the public versus private sector. The findings indicate that internal public audit transcends its traditional control function, becoming a strategic partner of institutional management and a guarantor of good governance, sustainability, and organisational performance.

Keywords: internal public audit, control mechanism, strategic partner, public sector, governance.

FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY IN ROMANIA

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Female entrepreneurship in the Romanian HoReCa industry represents a dynamic phenomenon shaped by globalization, migration, and the increasing need for innovative approaches in strategic human resource management. The importance of this topic lies in the growing contribution of women entrepreneurs to economic development, social cohesion, and the diversification of services in one of the most competitive and vulnerable industries. The purpose of this research is to analyze the role of female entrepreneurs in shaping business models within the Romanian HoReCa sector, with a focus on challenges, opportunities, and strategic practices that foster sustainable growth. The main objectives are to identify the socio-economic context that influences female entrepreneurship, to examine the impact of globalization and migration on workforce availability and skills, and to highlight the specific approaches women entrepreneurs adopt in managing human resources strategically. The methodology applied combines a qualitative analysis based on literature review and secondary data with case studies of successful female-led businesses in the Romanian HoReCa industry. The results underline that women entrepreneurs demonstrate strong adaptability, resilience, and innovation capacity, particularly in human resource management, which enhances competitiveness. These findings contribute to understanding the transformative role of female entrepreneurship in Romania's HoReCa sector.

Keywords: female entrepreneurship, hospitality industry, Romania, gender, business development.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS: ROMANIA'S INTEGRATION INTO THE EU FRAMEWORK

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The transition toward a circular economy has become a strategic priority for the European Union, supported by the European Green Deal, the EU taxonomy, and emerging sustainability standards. Romania, as an EU member state, is progressively aligning its economic and financial frameworks with these requirements, yet faces significant challenges in implementation. This paper explores Romania's integration into the EU framework for circular economy and sustainable finance, emphasizing the role of ESG reporting, harmonized taxonomy, and green investment flows. The analysis highlights both opportunities—such as access to EU funding instruments, enhanced competitiveness, and climate resilience—and barriers, including limited institutional capacity, gaps in regulatory enforcement, and low awareness among enterprises. By examining Romania's progress and shortcomings, the study outlines potential pathways for strengthening sustainability standards and accelerating the circular transition. The findings contribute to a better understanding of how EU policies and financial mechanisms can support Romania in building a sustainable, resource-efficient, and climate-resilient economy.

Keywords: circular economy, sustainability standards, Romania, EU integration, framework.

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BANKING SECTOR

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In the banking sector, sustainability involves integrating principles of social responsibility into the activities of banks, taking into account the economic, social and environmental impact of the actions undertaken. The social dimension plays an important role in the sustainability of banking institutions due to their role as social actors, not just economic ones.

Therefore, we aimed to analyze the main forms of social involvement of banks in the context of adopting a sustainable development policy in social terms. The study highlights that the most frequently practiced actions in this regard refer to social projects (e.g. financial education, health education), supporting the development of local communities, banking services for vulnerable groups, the well-being and professional development of employees, good public relations, and transparency of the adopted actions.

The benefits of such actions are evident not only for the community in which they occur but also for the banks themselves, which see their reputation and legitimacy strengthened in the eyes of the public. However, there are several difficulties that banks may encounter in the process of implementing sustainable social development, among which we highlighted the level of costs involved and the impact on the institution's profitability, regulatory complexity, the difficulty of measuring the social impact of undertaken actions, as well as the lack of human resources with adequate competencies.

Regarding solutions to expand bank's social involvement, we can mention providing favorable loans for social initiatives (such as social enterprises, community development initiatives) and supporting the expansion of digital services for vulnerable categories or isolated communities.

Keywords: social dimension, sustainable development, banking sector, corporate responsibility, financial inclusion.

DATA-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE AND AI: RETHINKING BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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In the era of digital transformation, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into data-driven governance frameworks is reshaping how businesses approach resilience and accountability. AI-powered analytics enable organizations to anticipate risks, optimize decision-making, and strengthen adaptive capacities, while simultaneously enhancing transparency and compliance with sustainability and ESG standards. This paper examines the interplay between AI, governance mechanisms, and business resilience, focusing on how data-driven systems can create competitive advantages in volatile environments. Emphasis is placed on the dual role of AI: as a strategic tool for financial sustainability and as a catalyst for accountability through real-time monitoring and reporting. By exploring best practices and challenges in implementing AI-driven governance models, the study highlights pathways for enterprises to balance innovation with ethical responsibility. The findings suggest that the effective adoption of AI in governance not only supports corporate resilience but also contributes to building stakeholder trust and long-term sustainability in the digital economy.

Keywords: Data-Driven governance, artificial intelligence, business resilience, accountability, digital transformation.

DYNAMICS AND PERSPECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ORGANIZATIONS: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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This study examines the evolution and future trends of management in entrepreneurial organizations over a ten-year period. Using the Biblioshiny platform, an extensive bibliometric analysis was conducted based on a systematic review of the academic literature. By applying advanced data analysis and visualization techniques, the study investigates 581 academic publications authored by 712 researchers and published across 361 specialized journals between 2014 and 2024. The findings reveal a significant increase in research activity dedicated to management in entrepreneurial organizations starting in 2020, with an annual growth rate of 13.62%. Network mapping of keyword co-occurrence indicates the presence of six dominant thematic clusters in this field of research: innovation and knowledge management, digitalization and emerging technologies, leadership and organizational culture, growth and scaling strategies, sustainability and social responsibility, and opportunity-driven entrepreneurship. Furthermore, key journals such as Journal of Business Venturing, Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, Small Business Economics, Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, and Journal of Small Business Management have made substantial contributions to the advancement of scientific research in the management of entrepreneurial organizations.

Keywords: management, entrepreneurial organizations, dynamics, perspectives, bibliometric analysis.

DETERMINANTS OF BANK BRANCH DISTRIBUTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Financial inclusion and regional disparities in banking access remain pressing challenges in developing countries like the Republic of Moldova. We aim to analyze territorial distribution of bank branches in Moldova and identify key socioeconomic factors influencing their placement. Using regional data and linear regression, we assess the impact of variables like enterprises' number, average number of employees, sales revenue, population. Results show that economic indicators, especially number of average employees per enterprise ($R^2=0.9899$), are the strongest predictors of branch presence, outweighing spatial factors. Chișinău hosts most branches, yet distribution spans all districts. Findings suggest banks prioritize economically active regions over the densely populated. The study underscores the need for policies to improve access in underserved areas and supports efforts to reduce regional disparities, contributing to a better understanding of how economic development shapes financial infrastructure and inclusive growth. The paper was elaborated within the framework of the "Young researchers 2024-2025" competition project 24.80012.0807.09TC "Strengthening scientific and methodological support for reducing social vulnerability by increasing the level of financial inclusion of low-income groups" (2024-2025), institutional funding, ANCD.

Keywords: bank, branch, distribution, financial inclusion, regional disparities, Moldova.

AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF FISCAL INSTRUMENTS TO COMBAT ENERGY POVERTY AT THE EUROPEAN UNION LEVEL

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The European Union (EU), promoter of spectacular social and environmental development in recent decades, through its policy of substantially combating pollution and achieving climate neutrality by 2050 has led to increasing pressure on Member States to adapt to this environmental legislation. In addition to physical infrastructure, energy infrastructure represents a critical factor in adapting to climate change, but also to the extremely ambitious environmental policies of the European Union. In this context, the possibility of leaving more and more citizens behind, especially the most vulnerable is extremely high. Thus, the article aims to analyze in detail the role of fiscal and budgetary instruments at the European Union level to combat energy poverty. The methodology is comparative, at the level of EU countries, practical, but also theoretical, trying to explore as best as possible the fiscal instruments at the level of European Union countries. The results can be considered contradictory in places, given the lack of decision-making uniformity at EU level and the diversity of particular elements at the level of each member state.

Keywords: energy, energy poverty, government policy, fiscal stability, financial sustainability, combating inequality.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA'S TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY: RECENT INITIATIVES

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This paper analyzes the Republic of Moldova's progress in transition to a green economy, focusing on recent policy measures and financial instruments supporting sustainable development. It examines strategic efforts to align with EU environmental standards. Drawing on national policy documents and institutional reports, the study reviews initiatives such as the 2024–2028 Green and Circular Economy Promotion Program, GEFF, and partnerships involving BSTDB, Microinvest, and Victoriabank. These instruments support SMEs through green credit, tax incentives, and technical assistance. While the transition shows promising developments, persistent challenges remain - bureaucratic barriers, limited financing access, traditional business culture. The findings highlight the need for ongoing reforms, stronger institutional engagement, inclusive support mechanisms to ensure a successful green transition.

The paper was elaborated within the framework of 23.70105.0807.10T Project for Young Researchers "Development of new working models in the context of post-pandemic consequences and strengthening of job-specific skills for occupations and areas of smart specialization in the Republic of Moldova".

Keywords: green economy, circular economy, sustainable development, green finance, SMEs, Moldova.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION

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Economies in transition face a complex challenge driven by the current need to balance economic development with environmental sustainability - they must simultaneously address structural problems inherited from the past and adapt to the imperatives of the transition to sustainable finance and the circular economy imposed by new global economic paradigms.

This research study examines the early-stage transformation process of the Republic of Moldova, analyzing the convergence of policy frameworks, banking sector modernization, and investment models that facilitate the implementation of the circular economy. Using a mixed approach combining policy analysis and banking sector data, the research identifies key enabling factors and barriers in Moldova's sustainable finance ecosystem. The findings reveal that while policy reforms and EU partnership programs are creating solid foundations, implementation faces constraints including limited institutional experience, market awareness gaps, and traditional economic volatility. The study demonstrates that banking sector modernization, characterized by increased digitalization, improved credit accessibility, and lower interest rates, creates natural synergies with corporate investment models increasingly focused on operational efficiency. The research contributes to understanding how emerging economies can use policy-market convergence to accelerate the adoption of sustainable finance, offering insights for similar transition contexts.

This research is part of Subprogram 030101 "Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union."

Keywords: sustainable finance, circular economy, banking development, investment modernization, financial infrastructure, green transition.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AS A PILLAR OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: EVIDENCE FROM EU POLICIES AND MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

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Sustainable finance has evolved from a marginal notion into a pillar of the global financial architecture, defined as an investment process that integrates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. Its importance lies in the ability to channel capital not only towards financial returns but also towards long-term social and environmental value, in alignment with global climate and development objectives. The purpose of this research is to explore the interconnection between finance and sustainability, with particular attention to the role of European policies in accelerating the green transition. The study applies a comparative-analytical methodology, combining documentary analysis of the EU regulatory framework (EU Taxonomy, SFDR, CSRD) with statistical data from Eurostat, OECD, and the Climate Bonds Initiative. The results demonstrate the decisive role of the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Finance Action Plan, InvestEU, and the Just Transition Mechanism in mobilizing financial resources for renewable energy, green bonds, and emission reduction initiatives. At the same time, challenges such as regulatory complexity, persistent disparities between Member States, and the risk of greenwashing remain significant. The findings confirm that sustainable finance is no longer merely an ethical option but a structural necessity for strengthening economic resilience and achieving the European Union's climate targets.

This research is part of Subprogram 030101 "Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union."

Keywords: Sustainable finance, ESG factors, European Green Deal, EU Taxonomy, Green bonds, Green transition.

IMPLICATIONS OF GREENWASHING FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Greenwashing, defined as the misleading promotion of products or processes as sustainable, can negatively impact food security in the Republic of Moldova, a country where agriculture plays a critical role in the economy and food supply. This study explores the relationship between greenwashing and food security, identifying vulnerabilities and potential threats to the Moldovan food system, based on circumstantial evidence and global trends. The research adopts a qualitative approach, based on examining general information about greenwashing and food security, correlated with contextual observations about the agricultural sector in Moldova. It considers aspects related to agricultural practices, consumer behavior and environmental regulations, to outline the possible influence of greenwashing on agricultural sustainability. The research found that Greenwashing could hide the negative impact of agricultural practices on natural resources, such as soil and water, essential for food production in Moldova. False promotion of "organic" products risks diverting consumer interest and resources from sustainable alternatives, limiting progress towards organic agriculture. In line with global trends, greenwashing tends to erode trust in environmental initiatives, which could affect support for sustainable agricultural policies in Moldova. In the absence of strict regulations, greenwashing could complicate the identification of unsustainable practices, contributing to vulnerabilities in the food system. Accordingly, the results of the analysis suggest that greenwashing may pose risks to food security in Moldova, affecting natural resources, consumer confidence, and regulatory efficiency. To address these challenges, further investigations, clearer policies, and initiatives to promote sustainable agricultural practices, adapted to the local context, are needed.

This research was carried out within the framework of the project 25.80012.5107.10SE "The phenomenon of greenwashing in the context of food security in the Republic of Moldova: best practices and alignment with the European Union", funded by the National Agency for Research and Development, Republic of Moldova.

Keywords: greenwashing, food security, Republic of Moldova, sustainability, consumer trust.

INTEGRATING ESG PRINCIPLES INTO INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN PRACTICES AND CASE STUDIES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The purpose of this research is to explore the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into investment strategies, with a specific focus on European best practices and emerging examples from Republic of Moldova. The study outlines the increasing global significance of ESG factors in shaping sustainable finance, highlighting the shift from traditional profit-oriented models to approaches that consider environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and transparent governance as key drivers of long-term value. Methodologically, the research employs a comparative case study design, combining review of European regulatory frameworks and investment trends with qualitative interviews and document analysis from selected Moldovan actors. This mixed-method approach enables the identification of both common patterns and context-specific factors influencing ESG implementation. The results reveal that European markets increasingly reward ESG-compliant investments through improved risk management, enhanced reputation, and better long-term returns. In Moldova, awareness of ESG principles is growing, but structural barriers remain, including limited regulatory incentives, low investor familiarity, and a need for capacity building. Nevertheless, pilot initiatives demonstrate promising pathways for aligning local investment strategies with international sustainability standards. The article concludes by recommending targeted investor education and stronger public-private collaboration to accelerate ESG adoption in Moldova, thereby fostering sustainable economic development and attracting responsible foreign investment.

This research is part of Subprogram 030101 "Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union".

Keywords: ESG principles, investment strategies, European practices, Republic of Moldova, case studies.

THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM AN ESG PERSPECTIVE

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Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles have become an essential framework for assessing and guiding sustainable development on a global scale. These principles provide a comprehensive perspective through which countries can analyze the long-term viability and societal impact of their development strategies. In the context in which the world is increasingly facing challenges such as climate change, social inequality and governance deficits, the integration of ESG principles has become essential for countries that aim to achieve resilient and inclusive growth. The Republic of Moldova must benefit from the adoption of these principles to shape its future and face the challenges of EU integration. The purpose of the research was to analyze the specialized literature on ESG principles and their role in ensuring sustainable development. The methods used are: monographic analysis, documentary analysis, comparative analysis, historical method and synthesis. The results of this study consist of substantiating the concept of sustainability through the lens of ESG principles, defining ESG components and their role and impact in ensuring sustainable development, and identifying the benefits that the implementation of ESG principles can bring.

This research is part of Subprogram 030101 "Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union."

Keywords: ESG principles, strategic management, green finance, sustainability, development.

THE POTENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTING NUTRILITE STANDARDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ARGUMENT FOR COOPERATION

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In the context of global digital transformation and the rising demand for nutraceuticals, aligning international standards of sustainable production with Moldova's local capabilities is both timely and strategic. This study evaluates the feasibility of applying Nutrilite (Amway) standards in the Republic of Moldova, leveraging lessons from Brazil's successful organic certification model implemented in collaboration with QIMA. The research aims to analyze compatibility between Moldovan agroecological conditions and Nutrilite protocols, supported by comparative analysis, risk assessment, and strategic integration opportunities. Methodologically, this paper employs a comparative framework, SWOT analysis, and institutional mapping. The findings reveal Moldova's chernozem soils, biodiversity, and EU-access proximity as major advantages. Risks such as non-compliance and lack of human capital are addressed through digital traceability (blockchain, QR tech), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and international capacity building. The results support a pilot model for certified nutraceutical production in Ungheni or Cahul districts, integrating GMP/HACCP protocols, agrochemical audits, and partnerships with Oregon State University, EFSA, and Horizon Europe programs. Moldova emerges as a candidate for regional leadership in science-based, digitally traceable nutraceutical production under sustainable development goals.

Keywords: nutraceuticals, sustainable agriculture, GMP standards, digital traceability, black soil, smart specialization, EFSA, Nutrilite.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROBLEMS IN FINANCING THE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SECTOR IN THE SOUTH DEVELOPMENT REGION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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This article examines the achievements and persistent challenges in financing the water supply and sanitation sector in the South Development Region (DR) of the Republic of Moldova over the period 2020–2024. The research is based on data from the Ministry of Finance and focuses on projects financed through the National Environmental Fund (NEF) and the National Fund for Regional and Local Development (NFRLD). The South DR, despite being one of the most underdeveloped regions in terms of infrastructure, has benefited from increased financial support in recent years, largely due to institutional reforms and the transfer of funding responsibilities to the NFRLD. These changes enabled the implementation of larger-scale, integrated projects with broader regional impact, improving coordination and alignment with national development strategies.

However, the analysis reveals significant disparities in both the distribution of funds across districts and the absorption rate of allocated resources. While districts such as Causeni and Leova secured substantial financing for major infrastructure projects, others like Cantemir and Basarabeasca attracted modest amounts for smaller-scale interventions. Moreover, fluctuations in the execution rate—ranging from over 100% in 2022 to only 37% in 2023—highlight inconsistencies in project implementation, administrative capacity, and budgetary planning.

The study concludes that although reforms strengthened financing mechanisms and expanded investment opportunities, regional disparities persist. To ensure sustainable progress, further efforts are required to enhance the administrative capacity of local authorities, stabilize funding execution, and foster equitable distribution of resources.

Keywords: financing, water supply, sanitation, South Development Region.

THE PARTICULARITIES OF INVESTMENTS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Investments in a circular economy represent the placement of capital to support, through the design of systems and initiatives related to maximizing the value of resources by extending the life cycles of products (keeping them in use for as long as possible), minimizing waste, maximizing the efficient use of resources and minimizing waste and eliminating pollution. The focus of these investment efforts is to change from a linear model to a closed-loop system, where materials are reused, recycled, and regenerated. The transition to a more sustainable and resource-efficient future requires investing in the circular economy, which has become an important element. Investments in the circular economy can provide benefits to both recipient companies (such as reduced costs, new revenue streams, improved reputation) and investors (e.g., risk mitigation, long-term value creation, strengthening the image of social responsibility). The main characteristics of investments in the circular economy are: focus on closed-loop systems; extension of product life cycles; increasing resource efficiency; focus on sustainable growth.

Keywords: globalization, migration, approaches, strategic management of human resources.

RESILIENCE OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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The resilience of the financial sector has become a critical component in ensuring economic stability and sustainable development, particularly in countries facing structural vulnerabilities and external shocks. This paper explores the resilience of the financial sector in the Republic of Moldova, emphasizing both its challenges and strategic directions for strengthening stability. The analysis highlights key vulnerabilities, including high dependence on external markets, exposure to geopolitical risks, limited diversification of financial instruments, and persistent issues related to financial inclusion. At the same time, the paper identifies positive developments such as improved capitalization of banks, alignment with European Union regulations, and the gradual adoption of digital financial services. Building on international best practices and local specificities, the study outlines strategic directions for enhancing resilience, including the consolidation of risk management frameworks, diversification of financial services, promotion of sustainable and green finance, and strengthening institutional capacity for regulation and supervision. The findings underscore the importance of a proactive, integrated approach in ensuring that the Moldovan financial sector remains capable of absorbing shocks, supporting economic growth, and contributing to the country's long-term sustainable development.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”.

Keywords: financial sector, resilience, Republic of Moldova, economic stability, strategic directions.

SESSION IV

WELL-BEING, INCLUSION AND THE REDUCTION OF SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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The need for a regional development policy in Bulgaria is determined by the fact that the principle of territorial solidarity requires the creation of relatively equal living conditions in the different parts of the country's territory. An important argument is also the process of accession and subsequent membership in the European Union, in which the policy of economic and social cohesion occupies a central place. The European Union, in addition to providing significant resources from the community, sets specific requirements for the member states, including in the regional policy it implements. In this report, the authors aim to characterize the priorities of the regional policy of the Republic of Bulgaria for different periods. The emergence, development, legislative framework and instruments of regional development policy are examined. Relevant conclusions and generalizations are made.

Keywords: regional policy, regional development, regional economy, regions, strategic planning

CURRENT TRENDS IN HIV INFECTION IN ROMANIA

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Background: HIV infection continues to be a significant public health issue in Romania, with ongoing challenges in prevention, treatment access, and social stigma. On December 1st 2024, Romania had reported a total of 28,793 cases of HIV/AIDS since 1985. Of these, 18,768 individuals were living with HIV/AIDS. Challenges: Many times hospitals in Romania have reported shortages of essential HIV medications, leading to limited access to ART for some patients. Social stigma continues to affect individuals living with HIV, impacting their willingness to seek testing and treatment. Socio-professional integration remains one of the most important challenges. Methodology: Analysis of documents within the Department for Monitoring HIV Infection in Romania (National Institute of Infectious Diseases dr. "Matei Bals" Bucharest) on the evolution of HIV-AIDS at the level of our country, respectively the data presented by patient associations. Conclusion: HIV infection continues to be a public health problem in Romania also, that requires sustained efforts both in terms of management of cases already diagnosed and in terms of prevention among the population.

Keywords: HIV, social, stigma, trends, medical services, challenges

THE REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

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The European Social Model is based on three principles that have guided Europe for centuries: freedom, equality, and fraternity. However, these principles are increasingly criticized, as a result of the changes that have occurred in industrialized societies in recent decades, through the restructuring of national economies, the increase in unemployment in the European Union, globalization and increased competition, the acceleration of technological innovation, political and economic changes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. These have led to the introduction of neoliberal ideas, which have had a hard impact on shaping the European Social Model in recent years. The presentation will focus on the analysis of the reform of the European Welfare Model and its rapid adaptation to changes necessary to respond to current economic and social problems. The research methodology is a multidisciplinary analysis of EU social and economic policies as well as Eurostat labour market indicators. Restructuring the European Social Model is essential for strengthening the European Union's position in the World economy and responding to the challenges of globalization.

Keywords: European Social Model, cohesion, solidarity, welfare, reform, globalization

POST-WAR REPLENISHMENT OF UKRAINE'S HUMAN CAPITAL FOR ITS SOCIAL RESILIENCE

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For over thirty years, Ukraine's global ranking on the Human Development Index (HDI) has been in a clear downward trend. The large-scale war with Russia has greatly exacerbated this negative trend due to significant human losses, many millions of internally displaced persons and refugees abroad, and socio-economic destruction. High losses of human capital are a strategic threat to Ukraine's post-war recovery and its social resilience. Therefore, the ways to replenish these losses were in the focus of the High-Level Ukraine Recovery Conference (July 2025, Rome). Given the above, the article purpose is to substantiate strategic directions and approaches for overcoming Ukraine's post-war deficit of human capital in order to strengthen its social resilience. The research is methodologically based on an interdisciplinary approach. Key findings relate to the socio-economic consequences of Ukraine's loss of human capital in the education and employment sectors; the identification of Triple Nexus and Social Quality approaches as optimal strategies for Ukraine's post-war social progress. Among the main conclusions of the scientific research is the urgent need for institutional changes to strengthen the interaction between the education sector and the labour market of Ukraine, aimed at overcoming the loss of Ukrainian human capital after the wartime.

Keywords: sustainable development, societal threats, well-being, inclusion, social inequality, Ukrainian recovery, post-war challenges

AGE-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN LABOUR LAW: PROTECTING OLDER WORKERS IN THE CONTEXT OF EXTENDING WORKING LIFE

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Population aging and the extension of working life require a profound reevaluation of the role of older workers in the labour market. Rather than benefiting from recognition and professional stability, they increasingly face age-based discrimination - in the form of hiring refusals, restricted access to professional training, wage discrimination, or disguised dismissals. This article offers a critical analysis of the European and national legal frameworks concerning equal treatment in employment, with a focus on existing legal mechanisms for preventing and sanctioning age-based discrimination. It identifies legislative gaps and inconsistencies between anti-discrimination regulations and labour market policies. In parallel, the paper explores good practices from other European countries that promote “age-friendly workplaces” and intergenerational integration.

Keywords: older workers, discrimination, labour market, age criteria, equal treatment

COUNTING THE UNSEEN: THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TOLL OF ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASE

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Asbestos exposure still kills more than 200 000 people each year and drains nearly four million disability-adjusted life years, yet its full economic footprint remains largely invisible to policymakers. Synthesising surveillance data, cost of illness studies and litigation records from Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific, we demonstrate that direct medical outlays, £10 000 per patient in the United Kingdom, US\$24 000 in the United States, up to C\$54 000 in Canada, account for barely one-tenth of total costs. Productivity losses, foregone unpaid labour and health-related quality of life deficits exceed 90 % of the burden, while court awards and compensation funds have already surpassed US\$70 billion in the United States and €2.4 billion in France. These hidden liabilities erode economic resilience, widen social and geographic health inequalities, and divert scarce public resources away from green and digital transitions. We argue that integrating full cost accounting of asbestos-related diseases into green finance taxonomies, circular economy strategies and demographic resilience plans can unlock sustainable funding for safe removal, equitable compensation and preventive innovation. By reframing asbestos not merely as a legacy industrial hazard but as a cross-cutting socioeconomic threat, we underscore the need for integrated policies that simultaneously advance public health, social justice and sustainable development.

Keywords: asbestos, public health, productivity loss, compensation

REGIONAL DISPARITIES OF THE NEET YOUTH RATE IN ROMANIA

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The issue of young Romanians in the NEET category is a particularly sinuous one, with a vast range of nuances and a sufficiently consistent casuistry. In Romania, the interest for this category of population is even greater, because the share of NEET youth is the highest in the EU-27: 19.4% in 2024. Economic disparities in Romania's development regions are also compatible with other dimensions of inequality, such as life expectancy, employment and unemployment rates, schooling, private and public material resources. All this leads to relatively large differences between regional NEET youth rates, across different age groups. The paper presents a brief analysis of the NEET youth group evolution at the level of the development regions of Romania. Regional disparities of NEET youth rates have been quantified by using statistical methods. The obtained results confirm the negative trends in terms of increasing regional disparities of this population segment in Romania and allow to highlight their determinants.

Keywords: young NEET, risk factors, regional disparities, vulnerabilities

INEQUALITY INDICATORS: FROM GINI TO ATKINSON AND PALMA

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This paper explores the theoretical and methodological framework of income inequality indicators, emphasizing their relevance for assessing socioeconomic disparities in the Republic of Moldova. As the country experiences deepening stratification due to market transitions, the need for robust statistical tools becomes increasingly important. The study aims to analyze and systematize the principal indicators used to quantify inequality, including the Gini coefficient, Lorenz curve, Atkinson index, Palma ratio, Theil index and income ratios by quintiles and deciles. These indicators reflect various dimensions of inequality and offer complementary perspectives for policy design. The methodological approach combines theoretical analysis with a critical evaluation of empirical applications, particularly in the Moldovan context. The paper discusses the benefits and limitations of each indicator, highlighting how methodological choices can influence the interpretation of inequality dynamics. Results demonstrate that reliance on a single metric may obscure important aspects like polarization and distributional asymmetries. By integrating complementary measures, such as decomposition techniques and sensitivity to income distribution tails, the study provides a more nuanced understanding of inequality. This work contributes to the refinement of inequality measurement systems and supports the development of evidence-based policies aimed at reducing income disparities and promoting inclusive socioeconomic development.

The article was elaborated within the Project selected in competition "Stimulating excellence in scientific research 2025-2026" 25.80012.0807.37SE "The perfection of instruments for reducing income inequality and reducing poverty of the population in the process of European integration of the Republic of Moldova", institutional funding, ANCD.

Keywords: income inequality, Gini coefficient, Atkinson index, Palma ratio, Theil index, Lorenz curve, income distribution, Republic of Moldova

UNDERSTANDING INCOME DIFFERENTIATION: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE ON MOLDOVA

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This study explores the multifaceted nature of income inequality in the Republic of Moldova, analyzing the structural and individual factors that influence the distribution of monetary and non-monetary income. The research highlights the growing concern over inequality as a driver of social instability and economic inefficiency. The primary objective is to identify and classify the determinants of income differentiation by grouping them into systemic and individual factors. These include economic, political, demographic, social, professional, and psychological influences. The methodology consists of an analytical review of theoretical frameworks and empirical data, structured according to established economic classifications. Key findings indicate that income inequality is shaped not only by productivity and property ownership, but also by institutional asymmetries, unequal access to education, and unequal bargaining power in labour markets. Furthermore, factors such as urban-rural residence, family structure, and informal economies exacerbate disparities. The study concludes that while certain drivers of inequality may be inherent to market dynamics, many are institutional and policy-driven. Effective mitigation therefore requires targeted policy reforms, improved redistributive mechanisms and support for equal opportunities. This comprehensive approach is essential to ensuring inclusive development and social cohesion in Moldova.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”.

Keywords: income inequality, Republic of Moldova, social stratification, economic factors, redistribution, structural disparities

STATE REGULATION OF PROCESSES AIMED AT REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The actuality of the article is determined by the fact that income inequality is one of the most serious problems in the Republic of Moldova, which requires state regulation of processes in this area. The purpose of the article is to develop a set of measures aimed at reducing income inequality among the population of the Republic of Moldova. This goal is achieved through methodological approaches that, on the one hand, involve increasing the incomes of low-income population groups and, on the other hand, redistributing high and very high incomes from wealthy groups. Research results. Measures have been developed to reduce income inequality among the population. These include: a) increasing the minimum wage by aligning it with EU standards. It is proposed to gradually increase the minimum wage to reach 50% of the average monthly wage in the national economy; b) increasing pension amounts by improving the pension system. In particular, it is recommended to modernize the indexation coefficient to reflect not only the depreciating effect of consumer price index growth but also the growth in average wages in the economy; c) improving the personal income taxation system. It is proposed to: i) increase the amount of personal tax exemption and introduce tax deductions for medical treatment and education; ii) replace the current flat tax system with a progressive taxation scale.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: income inequality, state regulation, minimum wage, indexation coefficient, tax scale, tax deductions

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING IN EU COUNTRIES: EXPLORING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DRIVERS

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The aim of this study is to analyze the role of economic factors in shaping subjective well-being across the countries of the European Union. The authors employed correlation analysis to examine the relationship between GDP per capita (adjusted for purchasing power parity) and the Happiness Index. The analysis was based on data from the World Happiness Report 2025 and GDP per capita (PPP) for the year 2024. Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was calculated, yielding a statistically significant result of $r = 0.779$. The findings indicate that GDP plays a substantial—though not exclusive—role in influencing individuals' perceptions of happiness. The results support the hypothesis that economic factors are critical to subjective well-being only up to a certain threshold. Beyond this point, non-material dimensions—such as health, a sense of security, social connections, institutional trust, and other aspects of quality of life—become increasingly important. Thus, subjective well-being is a multifaceted construct that cannot be fully explained by economic indicators alone. Enhancing overall life satisfaction in society requires an integrated approach that takes into account both material and non-material factors.

Keywords: happiness economy, subjective well-being, GDP per capita, life satisfaction, quality of life, correlation analysis

IN-WORK POVERTY AMONG YOUTH IN MOLDOVA

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This work examines the issue of young people experiencing poverty despite being employed in the labour market in the Republic of Moldova. The author analyzes the underlying economic structures and the resulting social impacts of this phenomenon. Utilizing national statistical data and migration trends, the paper reveals a consistent disparity between the average earnings of young Moldovans and the minimum resources required for basic survival. The results indicate that low-paying employment traps young individuals in Moldova in a state of economic insecurity, restricting their prospects for personal and professional growth and fueling emigration. The author proposes that comprehensive policy interventions and governmental programs should be implemented in order to create employment opportunities, particularly in rural regions, to disrupt the cycle of poverty affecting young workers and to reduce the number of those who want to migrate.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: working poor, youth employment, labour market, emigration, low wages

INVISIBLE SURVIVAL STRATEGIES – THE INTERACT Project: RETHINKING SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESS WOMEN IN ROMANIA

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Homelessness among women represents one of the least visible yet most acute forms of social exclusion. This paper addresses the intersectional vulnerabilities of homeless women in Romania, including gender-based violence (GBV), problematic substance use (PSU), and mental health (MH) challenges. The article draws on some of the activities carried out within the “Intersectional Approach to Combating Homelessness for Women” (INTERACT) project, co-funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), which aims to develop a pilot intervention model adaptable to different European contexts. INTERACT project runs during 1.10.2024 – 30.09.2027, in partnership with organizations from Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Portugal and Romania, and seeks to address the multiple vulnerabilities faced by women experiencing homelessness or living in precarious conditions. The project primarily targets homeless women, especially those with multiple vulnerabilities and complex assistance needs, as well as policymakers in related social policy fields, institutional actors and civil society. A central component of the project is the creation of the Pilot Intervention Model, based on interdisciplinary collaboration and recognition of the intersectional dimension of homelessness. Using desk research, national and local data (Cluj-Napoca, Suceava), and comparative examples of European best practices, the analysis explores invisible survival strategies, service gaps and opportunities for integrated assistance. The findings highlight the necessity of trauma-informed approaches, Housing First (HF) policies and gender-sensitive interventions.

The INTERACT Pilot Intervention Model will provide professionals and decision-makers with tools for designing interventions grounded in human rights, gender equality and systemic collaboration. The conclusions indicate that the social inclusion of homeless women cannot be achieved through fragmented services but through integrated, intersectional and sustainable policies.

Keywords: homeless women, intersectionality, trauma-informed care, Housing First, social inclusion.

SOCIAL HEALTH AND EQUALITY: NUTRILITE AS A TOOL FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN MOLDOVA

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Against the backdrop of economic and demographic challenges facing the Republic of Moldova, access to quality food and nutraceuticals remains limited, especially for vulnerable population groups. In the context of striving to meet European Union standards in the areas of social protection and sustainable development, there is a need to integrate private initiatives that contribute to strengthening public health and reducing social inequality. This article explores the potential of Nutrilite, a global brand of vitamins and dietary supplements, as an element of a socially oriented model of sustainable development. It analyzes the possibilities of creating partnerships with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to implement subsidy programs, targeted distribution, and education in the field of healthy nutrition. It emphasizes Nutrilite's role in improving the biological sustainability of the population, reducing the burden on the healthcare system, and improving quality of life. Particular attention is paid to issues of social inclusion and the empowerment of low-income groups through training in the Network TwentyOne system, with the aim of providing additional decent income, economic independence, and integration into the market for sustainable goods and services. This approach is in line with Moldova's strategic goals in the areas of social justice and preparation for EU accession.

Keywords: social health, equality, Nutrilite, Network TwentyOne, Moldova, quality of life, vulnerable groups

STRONG LOCAL SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM AS AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT TO SOCIAL INCLUSION OF REFUGEES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR CRISIS IN UKRAINE

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The unprecedented humanitarian crisis sparked by the war in Ukraine necessitated the urgent development of social protection systems in neighboring countries. This study examines the managerial challenges and solutions encountered in rapidly establishing a local social protection system for Ukrainian war refugees in Western Romania. We aimed to document the processes of assessing and responding to refugee needs, which informed the development of this local social intervention system. Drawing on in-depth interviews with 10 participants holding managerial or coordinating roles in both public and private local institutions, data collected highlighted both the facilitating factors and the barriers and challenges to developing and sustaining a robust network of partners. Key findings indicate that the decisive leadership of local authorities, the activation of pre-existing public-private partnership networks (forged during the pandemic), and the strategic use of technology for service coordination and delivery were facilitating factors in designing the social intervention. Conversely, the challenges to the system's sustainability were identified as diminishing financial resources and the maintenance of human resources, which had reached burnout. This research offers insights for local social support efforts, highlighting considerations for the sustainable deployment of social support in future crisis responses.

Keywords: Ukrainian war, refugees, social inclusion, social work, crisis, social intervention, Romania

RESILIENCE, INCLUSION, AND THE CHALLENGES OF PARENTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MOTHERS

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The study investigates the challenges faced by mothers raising children with disabilities and explores the resilience factors that enable them to overcome these difficulties and restore family balance. Shifting focus from the child to the parental experience, the research acknowledges the radical life changes and unique obstacles parents face. Employing a qualitative research methodology, data was collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews with 14 mothers of children with disabilities in Western Romania. The study revealed that mothers of children with disabilities face significant challenges, including difficulties with the child's personal care, autonomy, managing challenging behaviors, and adapting their homes due to physical barriers. They also encounter obstacles in accessing specialized services and navigating educational institutions due to a lack of trained staff and poor child integration. Family relationship issues, such as non-acceptance of the disability and marital tensions, along with financial strain and social stigmatization, are prevalent. Personally, mothers experience psycho-emotional exhaustion and often sacrifice their own needs. However, parental resilience is fostered by family support, social networks, the child's progress, internal resources, and spirituality. These findings underline the need for integrated social care interventions targeting not only the child with disabilities but the whole family, promoting resilience through tailored support within social services.

Keywords: children with disability, resilience, inclusion, parenting, mothers, Romania

MECHANISMS FOR MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The social economy plays a crucial role in fostering social inclusion by supporting vulnerable groups, strengthening community cohesion, and promoting sustainable development. Its capacity to generate social, economic, and environmental benefits underscores the importance of impact measurement for integration into public policies and for informing strategic decision-making. This article reviews international practices of social economy impact assessment, with a focus on European Commission initiatives. It examines tools such as the GECES framework, SROI methodology, EU evaluation mechanisms, self-assessment tools, theories of change, and SDG-aligned standardized indicators. These approaches allow for the quantification of impacts and offer replicable, adaptable models applicable across diverse contexts. In the Republic of Moldova, where the social economy is in the process of consolidation and is gaining strategic importance, the adoption and adaptation of these methodological frameworks can support organizations in self-assessing their impact and authorities in monitoring performance. Furthermore, they contribute to evidence-based policymaking, the prioritization of resources, and the alignment of the sector with European and global sustainable development objectives.

Keywords: social economy, social inclusion, sustainable development, impact measurement mechanisms and tools

WHY STAY? UNPACKING PLACE ATTACHMENT AND LIFE SATISFACTION IN RURAL SOUTHEAST EUROPE

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Rural areas across Southeast Europe face persistent out-migration, undermining demographic resilience and sustainable rural growth. Although drivers of out-migration as high unemployment, weak infrastructure, and scarce jobs, are well documented, the motives that persuade residents to stay remain largely unexplored. This study applies mediation analysis to test the mediation model where place attachment transmits the effect of life satisfaction onto staying intentions, using a 2024 rural household survey from Albania, Kosovo, Romania, and Moldova. The preliminary findings reveal a high likelihood of respondents choosing to remain in their place of residence over the next two years. In Moldova, average life satisfaction is 7.1/10 and the probability of staying is 86%. Moreover, data indicate that place attachment is generally high, increasing with age and reflecting older people's deeper connections to their village and vicinity. Results show that the direct link between life satisfaction and staying intention is weak, yet a strong indirect path via place attachment explains over 80% of the total effect. These findings suggest that boosting wellbeing alone is insufficient; policies must convert satisfaction into rootedness through community engagement, local-identity initiatives, and participatory governance to sustain rural persistence.

Keywords: place attachment, life satisfaction, Southeast Europe, migration, rootedness

UNVEILING THE POWER DYNAMICS OF INCLUSION: MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

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This paper examines the influence of power dynamics and conflict within entrepreneurial ecosystems on the marginalization of migrant entrepreneurs. It contends that prevailing narratives often neglect underlying power imbalances and tensions, particularly as they relate to the challenges migrant entrepreneurs face in gaining access, legitimacy, and support. To address this gap, the study introduces a three-sphere framework; comprising the social sphere, social process, and social outcome to examine how factors such as network asymmetries, knowledge disparities, and institutional voids, along with cultural barriers, eroded trust, and identity challenges, contribute to either systemic exclusion or the development of adaptive resilience and collaborative resource use. The paper argues that recognizing and addressing these dynamics is key to creating more inclusive and innovative entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Keywords: migrant entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial ecosystems, inclusion, power dynamics, resilience

MULTIDIMENSIONAL WELL-BEING IN RURAL AREAS DURING TIMES OF TRANSITION: A DESCRIPTIVE GLANCE AT FOUR SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Rural areas are crucial for sustainable economic growth due to their natural resource wealth, food production, and role in ecosystem services. However, they are under growing demographic pressure caused by persistent out-migration. Traditional economic theories often focus on macro-level factors such as industrialization and urbanization but fail to explain why some rural areas thrive while others do not, even under similar conditions. This paper shifts the focus to rural residents' living standards and well-being as a first step in understanding out-migration. We assess well-being using the Index of Well-being, which is based on the Alkire-Foster method and Amartya Sen's capability approach. The index captures key dimensions of life such as material standards, health, education, social relationships, and environmental quality. Using data from the RuWell project, we analyze rural well-being in four Southeast European countries: Moldova, Romania, Kosovo, and Albania. Our findings reveal substantial disparities in well-being across and within countries. A key contribution of the study is the comparison of well-being levels with national averages of migration intentions.

The results show that lower multidimensional well-being is closely linked to higher migration intentions. These insights are critical for policymakers and stakeholders aiming to improve rural quality of life and reduce migration by promoting more inclusive and sustainable development.

Keywords: rural well-being, multidimensional well-being, Southeast European countries, migration, capability approach, sustainable development

LEGAL RESEARCH AND DISABILITY STUDIES: TOWARDS A TRANSDISCIPLINARY AND UNITARY HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

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This paper intends to analyze the importance of asking how disability studies can improve legal research and how strictly legal research can contribute to the development of disability studies. Attention will be paid to the intersection between legal studies and disability studies. It will analyze the reality in which we live, where the medical model of disability is still prevalent, and the critical issues and prospects after nearly twenty years since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the UN General Assembly. The research methods used concern an analysis of reality, giving voice to experiences of people with disabilities and their family members, family caregivers, siblings, and a comparative analysis with a connection to disability studies. The results will highlight how the approach to disability must be based on human rights and respect for human dignity. The results will also highlight how legal studies focus on the technical elements specific to the field in which they operate, taking sociological elements into consideration, and enhancing the transdisciplinary nature of the approach. The objective pursued is the full participation of the individual who is no less entitled to rights and responsibilities than other subjects.

Keywords: legal research, fact, law, disability studies, human dignity, human rights, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), inclusion, persons with disabilities and their families, family caregivers, siblings, trans-disciplinary

INNO-CULT: DIGITALIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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In the face of global challenges such as climate change, demographic shifts, and social inequality, sustainable development requires innovative solutions, including the digitization of cultural heritage. The INNO-CULT project aims to integrate modern digital technologies into the process of preserving, disseminating, and promoting cultural resources, which is fully in line with the objectives of the European Strategy for Heritage in the 21st Century (Council of Europe Strategy 21). It includes the development of a multilingual, interoperable, and sustainable digital platform providing open access to digitized cultural artifacts and educational resources, such as augmented reality (AR), 3D visualization, and automated text analysis. A key element of the project is the involvement of the local population of the regions and the scientific community through participation in innovative events, digital heritage laboratories, and the creation of cultural and tourist routes. These initiatives not only contribute to the development of sustainable cultural ecosystems but also stimulate social inclusion by supporting cultural identity and accessibility for various population groups.

The article discusses models of digital transformation of cultural heritage as a powerful tool for territorial, social, and economic development. It also presents recommendations for strengthening transnational cooperation in the field of culture and education, based on the principles of openness, sustainability, and inclusiveness as key aspects of the Council of Europe's Strategy 21.

Keywords: digitization of cultural heritage, sustainable development, European Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century, Strategy 21, social inclusion, digital technologies, INNO-CULT, transnational cooperation

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AI-POWERED VIDEO GENERATION PLATFORMS FOR RESOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS

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This research analyzed the current AI-powered video generation platforms. The general purpose of research is to determine the unique features, operational performance, and inherent limitations of each solution. Analyzed platforms are the following: Invideo.io for social media content; Google Veo and OpenAI's Sora for cutting-edge video creation. Evaluation used several criteria: the quality of generated videos, the speed of generation, their economic model (free vs. credit-based), and most importantly, how accurately they interpreted text prompts. The results reveal differences in the capabilities and performance of these platforms. This comparative analysis suggests that choosing AI video generation platforms require careful thought. It's vital to consider specific user needs, weighing factors like video quality, operational speed, cost, and prompt interpretation accuracy to achieve maximum effectiveness and relevance for diverse tasks in resolving social problems.

Acknowledgments: Project SIBIA – 011301, “Information systems based on Artificial Intelligence” has supported part of the research for this paper.

Keywords: AI video generation, platform comparison, generative AI, video synthesis

ALIGNING WORKFORCE SKILLS AND EDUCATION WITH EVOLVING WORK TRENDS IN MOLDOVA

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This article examines the alignment between workforce skills and educational offerings in the Republic of Moldova amid rapidly changing patterns of work influenced by technological, demographic, and economic transformations. The study highlights global trends—digitalization, automation, and the rise of flexible employment models—that are reshaping labour markets and redefining the competencies required for sustainable economic growth. Against this backdrop, Moldova faces the dual challenge of addressing persistent skills gaps while modernizing its educational and vocational training systems. The study applies combined quantitative labour market analysis, qualitative interviews with employers and educators, and a review of national policy documents and international best practices. Main findings demonstrate a clear gap: employers want digital skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving, but many graduates have outdated or overly narrow qualifications. Moreover, rural–urban disparities and limited adult-learning opportunities exacerbate the challenge. The study also notes promising initiatives, including sector-based partnerships, competency-based curricula, and pilot dual-education programs, though these remain small in scale and inconsistent in implementation. The findings confirm the need of curriculum modernization, stronger career guidance systems, and continuous professional development programs to foster lifelong learning. Strengthening these areas is essential for Moldova to cultivate a resilient, future-ready workforce and to support inclusive, innovation-driven economic development.

The paper was developed within the framework of 23.70105.0807.10T Project for Young Researchers „Development of new working models in the context of post-pandemic consequences and strengthening of job-specific skills for occupations and areas of smart specialization in the Republic of Moldova”, institutional funding, ANCD.

Keywords: workforce, skills, educational offers, career guidance systems, professional development

MULTIDIMENSIONAL INDICATORS OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION: EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The paper examines how EU indicators on poverty, inequality, and social exclusion—such as the Laeken indicators, AROPE, and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)—can be adapted to the Moldovan context, with a focus on vulnerable groups, particularly the unemployed. Based on a comparative analysis of EU practices and national data (household budget survey, MPI methodology), the study reveals persistent income inequalities (Gini coefficient) and multidimensional deprivation in health, education, housing, and employment. Despite progress in aligning with the EU acquis, challenges remain in measuring material deprivation and implementing EU-SILC. Adopting EU indicators will improve data comparability, support evidence-based policies, and help Moldova target the most disadvantaged households, reduce unemployment-related vulnerabilities, and promote the EU 2030 agenda on social inclusion.

The article was developed within the framework of Subprogram 030101 „Strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability of the economy of the Republic of Moldova in the context of the accession process to the European Union”, institutional funding.

Keywords: social exclusion, poverty, unemployment, Laeken indicators, AROPE, multidimensional poverty index, EU-SILC

PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS THROUGH SYNERGY BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TOURISM

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Despite the challenges posed by the war, the national agricultural sector remains one of the key drivers of the Ukrainian economy and a factor in the stability of the national economic system. The combination of agricultural entrepreneurship and tourism creates a synergistic effect—agricultural enterprises can offer tourists unique food and wine products, ecotourism routes, and agricultural education programs, which increases the competitiveness of the regions. Thus, the development of agriculture in conjunction with tourism can ensure sustainable growth in rural areas, improve the quality of life of the local population, and strengthen Ukraine's socio-economic integration into the global space. In Ukraine, the role of the creative economy, particularly tourism and craft production, is growing as important factors in the recovery and development of communities in wartime. Experience with interregional cooperation has shown that combining natural resources, cultural heritage, and entrepreneurial initiatives contributes to the creation of competitive products and creates additional employment opportunities for the population.

Keywords: sustainable development, agritourism, agricultural entrepreneurship, rural areas, tourism, synergy

EVALUATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES' SYSTEM OF INDICATORS FOR MEASURING INCOME INEQUALITY AND POVERTY LEVEL AMONG THE POPULATION

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This research analyzes the European Union countries' system of indicators used to measure income inequality and poverty level among the population. Income disparities within the EU are significant, however, the disparities are stark between member states. The Gini coefficient for income inequality stood at 29.6% in 2023, indicating moderate inequality. For example, Bulgaria and Lithuania have the highest levels of inequality, with Gini coefficients that exceed 35%, while for Slovakia, Slovenia, Belgium, and Czechia the levels are much lower, with coefficients below 25%. A substantial portion of the EU population is at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In 2023, approximately 21.4% of EU citizens, or nearly 95 million individuals, faced this risk. This includes those below the poverty threshold, those experiencing severe material deprivation, and those in low work-intensity households. Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece exhibit particularly high percentages of individuals at risk, especially in rural areas where there are limited job opportunities and services. In general, the system of indicators for measuring income inequality includes many different indicators, the most important of which are: the Gini coefficient (the most common indicator), the Lorenz curve (a graphical illustration of income distribution), the decile coefficient (the ratio of the income of the richest 10% to the poorest 10%), and indicators reflecting the share of certain population groups in total income. European Union countries use the Gini coefficient as the main indicator for measuring income inequality, which reflects the degree of income stratification in society. At the EU level, the ratio of the incomes of the richest 20% to the poorest 20% (S80/S20) is also used to assess the level of inequality.

Comparing the Gini coefficient of the Republic of Moldova with neighboring countries reveals certain differences in the level of income inequality. Eastern European countries such as Romania and Ukraine also face inequality issues, but the dynamics of changes in the coefficient in these countries may differ. These differences reflect the overall socioeconomic status of the countries and the effectiveness of their social and economic policies. Analysis of neighboring countries allows Moldova to assess its achievements and shortcomings in the context of regional development.

The article was elaborated within the Project 25.80012.0807.37SE "The perfection of instruments for reducing income inequality and reducing poverty of the population in the process of European integration of the Republic of Moldova".

Keywords: system of indicators, European Union countries, income inequality, poverty levels among the population.

THE SUBSTANTIVE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN'S INTERESTS IN THE ROMANIAN PARLIAMENT

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This study examines the substantive representation of women's interests in the Romanian Parliament during the 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 legislatures. It explores how the increased presence of women parliamentarians influenced legislative initiatives related to improving birth rate. The analysis reveals a shift from financial incentives to measures promoting work-life balance, reflecting a greater focus on reconciling women's professional and family lives during the second legislature when the descriptive representation of women parliamentarians almost doubled. Using content analysis and logistic regression models, the study highlights the correlation between descriptive and substantive representation, emphasizing the need for policies that support women's autonomy and gender equality. The findings suggest that while the increased presence of women led to more legislative proposals adopted, the political affiliation with National Liberal Party and initiation during the second legislature, in conjunction with the mandate of Social Democratic Party-Alliance of Liberals and Democrats Government led by a woman, are significant predictors for their adoption. Although the presence of women in Parliament is crucial for improving the substantive representation of women's interests, it does not guarantee legislative success. Further studies should analyze, using complementary research methods, what factors blocked the adoption of these initiatives and how the transformation of initiatives that promote women's interests into laws can be facilitated in the future.

Keywords: substantive representation, descriptive representation, legislative initiatives, political parties, women's interests, work-life balance policies, women-friendly policies

ENHANCING THE ALIGNMENT OF MOLDOVA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING WITH LABOUR MARKET REQUIREMENTS

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The educational system in Republic of Moldova currently is undergoing gradual reforms aimed at improving quality, aligning students' curricula with labour market demands and fostering lifelong learning opportunities. Present article analyzes key economic trends shaping education, vocational training, and the labour market in the Republic of Moldova. It explores how macroeconomic dynamics, demographic shifts, and technological change influence skill demand and employment structures. The study explores current and emerging economic patterns relevant to human capital development and evaluates their implications for educational policy and workforce planning. The methods used are monographic analysis, documentary analysis, comparative analysis, historical method and synthesis. This mixed approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of how evolving economic conditions link with education and training needs of vulnerable group of population. The main findings highlight several critical developments in Moldova such as growing demand for digital competencies, regional disparities in employment opportunities, and persistent mismatches between graduates' skills and employers' requirements. Technological advancements and labour migration further reshape workforce availability, while the education system struggles to adapt curricula and vocational pathways to these rapid changes. The research contributes to understanding importance of aligning education and professional training with economic realities and foster a resilient workforce capable of supporting sustainable economic growth and social development in Moldova.

The paper was developed within the framework of 25.80012.0807.26TC Project for Young Researchers "Valorization of human capital through mechanisms of social inclusion and sustainable development in the context of the innovative-technological ecosystem" (2025-2026), institutional funding, ANCD.

Keywords: educational system, labour market, opportunities, reforms

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES: SUSTAINABILITY AND JOBS

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In this paper, we aim to analyze the long-term sustainability implications of large-scale deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies and the potential for job creation. The main objective is to highlight the role of CCS in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in hard-to-decarbonize industrial sectors, such as cement, steel, and chemical, without compromising economic competitiveness. The methodology adopted is based on an integrated approach, combining the analysis of the environmental and economic benefits of CCS with the identification of technical, financial, and social challenges. At the same time, the paper highlights the impact on the labour market, focusing on sectors with job creation potential and on professional retraining opportunities in regions affected by the energy transition. The results suggest that CCS technologies can significantly contribute to reducing the carbon footprint and diversifying energy sources while generating new jobs in areas such as engineering, construction, and infrastructure operations.

However, the implementation of these technologies faces obstacles related to costs, social acceptability, and the need for a clear legislative framework. The conclusions emphasize the importance of integrating CCS into coherent public policies and the need for collaboration between authorities, industry, and academia to ensure sustainable development.

Keywords: carbon capture and storage, energy transition, jobs, sustainability, decarbonisation, public policy

THE COMPETITIVENESS OF ROMANIAN FESTIVALS IN PROMOTING EUROPEAN CULTURAL TOURISM

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In recent years, the development of the cultural sector and the diversification of the entertainment offer have transformed festivals into an important vector for promoting cultural tourism, both at national and European level. The competitiveness of Romanian festivals is determined by economic, social and technological factors, but also by their capacity to respond to the demands of an increasingly varied and connected audience to global trends. The present study analyzes the role of Romanian festivals in consolidating Romania's cultural image and in attracting European tourists, considering the impact of globalization, digitalization and changes in cultural consumption preferences. The researched collective is represented by participants in cultural festivals from different regions of the country, and the data were collected through a survey and semi-structured interviews, conducted both face-to-face and online. The research examines how artistic diversity, the quality of organization and promotion strategies influence the attractiveness and competitiveness of Romanian festivals, providing a perspective on their potential to contribute to the development of European cultural tourism.

Keywords: cultural competitiveness, cultural tourism, globalization, tourist attractions

QUALITY OF HABITATION AND PERCEPTION OF URBAN SPACE. CASE STUDY: TÂRGU JIU CITY, ROMANIA

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This study aims to highlight the city's existing local problems. We conducted an analysis of life quality in the municipality of Târgu-Jiu, presenting the perception of the people surveyed regarding the image of the city and living, the quality of public services, the quality and protection of the environment, as well as the number and quality of cultural, sports and leisure events. With specific interpretations and conclusions, the paper is based on documentation from field observations and interpretation of data obtained from various authorized institutions. Research methodology: the sample of the present research includes 124 subjects over 18 years, living in the city of Târgu Jiu. The investigation includes subjects residents throughout the municipality, including the component communes. The sample can be considered representative for the studied population, due to the characteristics of the interviewed subjects. Conclusions: through systematic surveys, but also including the results of an opinion poll, we tried to complete the analysis on an objective basis, with a subjective image, as a premise for identifying the elements imprinted in the local collective mentality as essential, as well as for establishing the optimal action measures, in the short, medium and long term for sustainable development.

Keywords: urbanization, life quality, public services, marginalized urban areas, inequity

THE QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY PERCEIVED BY THE POPULATION FROM ROMANIA AND THE FACTORS INFLUENCING THE MAINTENANCE OF DEMOCRACY – STATISTICAL STUDY, MARCH 2023

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The study focuses on assessing the degree of democratization perceived by the population of Romania and highlighting some factors that could contribute to the consolidation of current democracy. The interview data used in the statistical analysis were selected from a Eurobarometer in which 1013 people from Romania participated in March 2023. We highlight the main issues addressed: the perception of the functionality of current democracy in Romania; to what extent citizens can freely express their political opinion, engage in debates with candidates and political parties or access correct information from multiple media sources; what are the main serious threats to democracy in Romania; the most important aspects that underlie free and fair elections; ways to conduct fair electoral campaigns; types of media perceived as most prone to disinformation or fake news; disinformation and manipulation of information on online platforms and educating citizens in this context; degree of trust of citizens for the defense of democracy in the media, justice, government, parliament, political parties, public administration, electoral authorities, civil society organizations, citizens, EU institutions. The perceptions of the interviewed persons were analyzed comparatively in relation to: gender of the respondent, level of education, age, type of community, development regions of Romania.

Keywords: *perception of democracy, Romania, Eurobarometer, disinformation*

SESSION V

BUILDING DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE: STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

MEASURING ACTIVE AGEING IN A NON-EU CONTEXT: THE CASE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The paper details a transparent methodological pathway for applying the UNECE/European Commission Active Ageing Index (AAI) outside the EU, using the Republic of Moldova as a case study. Building on earlier national AAI editions (2016, 2020), we describe a reproducible approach that triangulates official statistics, census-based structural covariates, and survey microdata; specifies principled proxies where original indicators are unavailable; and conducts robustness checks on weights, thresholds, and missingness. The same architecture will underpin forthcoming 2024 estimates for Moldova, integrating multiple data sources to maximize comparability with EU practice and to ensure transparent reporting. Beyond the case study, the paper positions this pathway as a practical blueprint for monitoring active ageing in heterogeneous statistical environments, enhancing policy relevance while maintaining clarity about assumptions and limits of comparability.

The article was elaborated under the research subprogramme 030102: Demographic Transition in the Republic of Moldova: Specific Features, Socio-Economic Implications, and the Consolidation of Demographic Resilience (2024-2027).

Keywords: Active Ageing Index, non-EU adaptation, proxies, Moldova

FROM EARLY TO LATE FERTILITY: COMPARATIVE EVIDENCE FROM ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

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This study examines fertility dynamics in Romania and the Republic of Moldova, two Eastern European countries with common cultural roots but divergent political, social, and economic trajectories after the 1990s. Using vital statistics for 1971–2023, the analysis finds that the total fertility rate (TFR) in 2023 was 1.5 in Romania and 1.6 in Moldova, marginally above the levels recorded in many other European countries. Applying the postponement–recuperation model proposed by T. Frejka, we investigate shifts in both the tempo and quantum of fertility. Romania experienced an earlier onset of fertility postponement, around 1994, with the mean age at first birth rising from 22.6 years in the early 1990s to 27.2 years in 2023. By contrast, Moldova underwent a later and slower transition, beginning around 1997, with the mean age at first birth increasing only to 24.4 years by 2023. The postponement index rose steadily in both countries, surpassing 0.70 in Romania but stabilizing around 0.65 in Moldova. These results emphasize the divergent pace of adaptation to late fertility regimes and highlight the influence of social, economic, and cultural conditions on reproductive behavior.

This work was supported by a grant of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, CNCS - UEFISCDI, project number PN-IV-P8-8.3-ROMD-2023-0343, within PNCDI IV.

Keywords: fertility transition, fertility postponement and recuperation, Frejka model, Romania, Moldova

GENDER EQUALITY PERCEPTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: TRENDS, CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

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This article examines recent developments and key determinants of gender equity in the Republic of Moldova during the period 2015–2024, within a context shaped by institutional reforms, international pressures, and internal cultural resistance. Based on analysis of data from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), conducted in 2015 and 2024, the authors provide a comprehensive overview of gender relations dynamics, starting from the theoretical distinction between equality and equity, applying an intersectional sociological approach. Using a multi-theoretical framework – gender role theory, family decision-making theory, social change theory, and institutional theory – the article highlights significant progress in strengthening the legislative framework, promoting female leadership, and increasing the flexibility of family policies. The analysis focuses on the interconnection between cultural norms, institutional processes, and civil society initiatives, exploring not only the progress achieved but also the persistent systemic resistances.

The findings reveal a positive evolution in the field of gender equity but also highlight enduring structural challenges: deeply rooted gender stereotypes, economic inequalities, and the politicization of the gender equality discourse, and provide opportunities for developing evidence-based programs on gender equality, as well, guidelines for designing of public awareness campaigns.

Keywords: gender equity, gender equality, gender roles, family decision-making, social change, public policies

MIGRATION TRENDS AND THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

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This paper aims to examine the migration phenomenon in the current socio-economic context of Romania, with a focus on identifying the main determinants that act as either triggering or motivational factors. The analysis is based on a multidimensional framework that incorporates variables such as the unemployment rate, fluctuations in average wages both in Romania and across other EU member states, the estimated impact of remittances on economic growth, and other economic or political drivers that significantly contribute to the scope and complexity of migration. In the broader European context, Romania—alongside several other states—is currently facing serious demographic challenges, including the depopulation of rural areas, increasing migratory flows, declining birth rates, population aging, and the large-scale emigration of qualified professionals. These socio-demographic trends produce adverse effects across multiple sectors, including economic productivity, social cohesion, cultural sustainability, and environmental protection. Moreover, these dynamics are embedded in the broader post-communist transformation processes and the intensification of free labor mobility within the European Union, which, in some cases, reaches levels that disrupt the functioning of key systems such as industrial production, public health services, and vocational education and training.

Keywords: determinants of migration, socio-economic context, Romania

SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA WITH HOST COUNTRIES OF MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS: ACHIEVEMENTS AND TRENDS

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The Republic of Moldova is known as a country of migrant origin, with more than one million Moldovan citizens currently settled abroad (temporarily or permanently). The migration processes involving the Republic of Moldova have had different motivations and triggering factors at various stages, including domestic and regional instability (the war in the immediate neighborhood), economic and political turbulence, as well as poverty, which are among the main risk factors. An issue affecting an increasing number of Moldovan citizens abroad concerns pensions and social benefits. Currently, 18 bilateral agreements on social security are in force, the most recent of which was signed on June 2, 2025, between the Republic of Moldova and Switzerland, where the number of Moldovan migrants working is continuously increasing. Over the years, a series of amendments have also been introduced in the agreement signed between Chisinau and Rome regarding Moldovan migrants. The purpose of this research is to analyze trends in the field, the results achieved, and the difficulties faced by both migrants and the authorities. Quantitative analysis and statistical data were corroborated with qualitative analysis.

Keywords: Moldova, international migration, social security agreements, pensions and social benefits, migrant welfare policies

EVOLVING TRENDS IN MARITAL BEHAVIOR AMONG THE POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The paper analyzes the evolutionary trends in the marital behavior of the population of the Republic of Moldova, using data provided by population censuses from recent decades. The research highlights major transformations in family structures and in the models of forming marital unions, determined both by socio-economic changes and by cultural and demographic shifts. The results indicate a decline in the share of married individuals and an increase in the share of divorced persons. This situation reflects an upward trend, emphasizing marital instability and directly affecting household structures and children's well-being. Disparities between urban and rural areas remain significant, with visible differences in the pace and magnitude of change. At the same time, an increase in the share of consensual unions and a diversification of family patterns are observed, reflecting tendencies toward the individualization and flexibilization of couple relationships. Thus, uniformity in the life cycle no longer exists; each person shapes their life trajectory depending on personal ideals and the socioeconomic obstacles they face. The analysis underlines that the evolution of marital behavior in the Republic of Moldova aligns with general trends observed in the European context, while also presenting specific features shaped by the country's social, economic, and migratory context. The study provides an important empirical foundation for the formulation of demographic and family policies aimed at supporting family stability and adapting to new socio-demographic realities.

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Keywords: family, nuptiality, divorce rate, family policy

NOT NOW, MAYBE NEVER: FERTILITY HESITATION, SPIRITUAL REFRAMING AND SELF-CARE CULTURES IN URBAN ROMANIA

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This study explores fertility hesitation as a cultural syndrome shaped by emerging self-care ideologies and spiritual practices among urban Romanian women. In a context of declining birth rates and shifting life transitions, it examines how yoga functions as more than a physical discipline - offering a framework for navigating existential uncertainty, emotional resilience, and evolving concepts of fulfilment. Drawing on seven semi-structured interviews with female yoga practitioners aged 25–40, the research highlights a move away from traditional reproductive expectations toward individualized well-being narratives. Participants often described motherhood as a source of potential disruption to personal autonomy and emotional balance. Yoga served not only as a coping mechanism, but also as a lens through which participants redefined what it means to live a meaningful life.

Rather than treating fertility decline purely as an economic or demographic issue, the study frames it as part of a broader cultural reorientation. Spiritual self-care becomes a symbolic system that prioritizes introspection, autonomy, and holistic well-being - frequently at odds with institutional pronatalist messages. These findings contribute to understanding how demographic behaviours are embedded in deeper shifts in identity, belief, and quality of life in post-communist societies.

Keywords: fertility hesitation, self-care ideologies, spiritual practices, yoga, emotional well-being, autonomy

NEET YOUTH INTEGRATION INTO THE LABOUR MARKET IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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The integration of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) into the labor market is a pressing challenge in the Republic of Moldova, where demographic decline, large-scale emigration, and persistent skill mismatches limit employment opportunities. These constraints are most acute in rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged regions, where structural inequalities restrict access to decent work, training, and mobility. This study examines the determinants, barriers, and opportunities for NEET youth integration into the labor market, with a focus on regional disparities. Qualitative evidence was collected through 9 focus group discussions and 14 in-depth interviews with NEET youth aged 16–35 across six regions (Chisinau, Balti, Soroca, Ungheni, Orhei, and Edinet).

The findings reveal persistent vulnerabilities: reliance on informal and seasonal employment, low wages, limited institutional support, and inadequate transport infrastructure. High commuting costs, poor working conditions, and gender-related constraints, especially for young women with childcare responsibilities, further intensify exclusion. Short-term training and employment programs provide only fragmented and temporary support. Overall, the study demonstrates that NEET youth face multidimensional risks, requiring coordinated social, economic, and labor market policies that strengthen employment structures, reduce territorial inequalities, and create sustainable pathways for youth integration and inclusion.

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Keywords: youth, NEET, labor market, barriers, opportunities, regions

DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF CATASTROPHE: WHAT THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY CAN LEARN FROM THE UKRAINIAN EXPERIENCE

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The Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused one of Europe's largest demographic shocks since World War II. Over 5.6 million Ukrainians live abroad as refugees, and more than 3.3 million are internally displaced (UNHCR, IOM, 2025). The population has dropped by almost 25%, threatening human capital, labor markets, and long-term sustainability. This study analyzes Ukraine's demographic resilience under war, focusing on demographic losses, adaptive policies, and recovery scenarios to 2050. Despite severe declines, Ukraine shows resilience through community support, innovative health and social measures, and gradual adoption of European family and migration policies, offering lessons for global crises.

Keywords: demographic resilience, Ukraine, war, migration, human capital.

DEMOGRAPHIC RECOVERY POLICIES ADOPTED IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Among the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda is Goal 3 "Health and well-being for all". Starting from this objective, the paper aims to analyze the demographic recovery policies adopted at the level of the European Union member states, taking into account the fact that at this moment, the international demographic context is marked by declining fertility, accentuated labor migration and population aging. At the same time, in recent years there has been an increased public attention to promoting active and healthy aging, friendly to the environment. One of the premises of the research is that the decision to have children is being postponed more and more. The reasons are diverse and will be explored within the research theme. On the other hand, there are couples who do not want children at all. Another premise of the research is that some member states of the European Union have managed to adopt successful policies in promoting families/couples with children.

Keywords: fertility decline, population aging, family policy, demographic resilience, European Union

CHANGES IN THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF UKRAINIAN WAR MIGRANTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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The research examines the demographic characteristics of Ukrainian war migrants to the Czech Republic following Russia's full-scale invasion and the spatial distribution of refugees across this country. The study aimed to analyze the dynamics of the sex-age structure of war migrants and to characterize changes in their demographic profile over the past three years. It also identifies the spatial distribution of groups of migrants (children, adult persons, including seniors) regarding the territorial allocation of infrastructure that they need in Czechia. The research utilized data provided by the Ministry of the Interior of Czechia, the Czech Statistical Office, and Eurostat, and applied methods of systematization and generalization, comparative analysis, structure and dynamics analysis, graphical representation of data, and spatial analytical techniques. Czechia ranks third in the number of war migrants from Ukraine in the EU. Among migrants, there is a particularly high share of women aged 36 to 45, children aged 6 to 14, and boys aged 15-17 years. Over the recent years, the number and share of seniors (65 and over) and males aged 18-64 have increased. Based on Gini coefficients, medical infrastructure in Czechia is more unevenly distributed relative to children than to adult migrants (including seniors).

Keywords: migration, war, demographic characteristics, social infrastructure, Ukraine, Czech Republic

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SYSTEM IN UKRAINE DURING WARTIME: PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

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Work-life balance has long been a subject of public and academic debate in countries with varying degrees of social policy development. Preschools are one of the tools for achieving such a balance, as they provide care and education for children while their parents have the opportunity to pursue professional activities. The study analyzed the changes in the preschool education system during the full-scale war in Ukraine, characterized the impact of the war on infrastructure, accessibility and functioning of care services, the possibilities of restoring access under martial law, and regional characteristics. The set of factors determining functioning and quality of the preschool system in conditions of full-scale war was supplemented by the security situation at the regional level, territorial accessibility of institutions for both parents and preschool staff, and the availability of shelters equipped for children.

Keywords: preschool educational institutions, Russian war against Ukraine, family policy, childcare.

FAMILY RESILIENCE AS A FACTOR IN ENSURING THE STABILITY OF UKRAINIAN SOCIETY IN CONDITIONS OF EXTREME CHALLENGES

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Family resilience is its ability to adapt, self-organize in crisis conditions. In periods of social and economic transformations, economic crises, and especially in extreme conditions of war, family resilience is a prerequisite for the stability of society. The purpose of this study is to identify the strengths of the Ukrainian family, which determine its resilience, and its problems. Ukraine is a country with a strong family archetype, strong family ties. The advantages of the Ukrainian family are family solidarity, mutual assistance, exchange of services and material resources between family members. This provides operational assistance to relatives in extreme situations. The adaptive capabilities of the family make it possible to adapt to war conditions and maintain a certain quality of life. The hierarchy of family functions is transformed: the protective function of the family is strengthened; but the family continues to perform the most important demographic functions. At the same time, in conditions of a long war, a significant challenge to the resilience of the Ukrainian family are the deformation of the family structure of the population (especially the increase in single-parent families), an increase in the number of divorces, and the aggravation of gender problems.

Keywords: family, resilience, population, society, family solidarity, war.

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON THE SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY IN MOLDOVA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

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The purpose of this article is to provide a comparative analysis of the situation of the elderly population in the Republic of Moldova in relation to the European Union average and selected EU countries. The study evaluates the employment of the pre-pension age population and the opportunities for continuing labour activity among elder persons (aged 60 and over). It analyses the overall employment rate in the country and identifies the types of economic activities where the share of older workers is most prevalent. In assessing the standard of living of the elderly population, the article compares wages, replacement rates, and pension levels in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, with particular attention to gender differences. It also estimates poverty risks among older persons based on absolute and extreme poverty indicators. The characteristics of the elderly population in Moldova are examined in comparison with corresponding indicators for the EU average and individual member states. The research applies methods of analysis and synthesis, the calculation of secondary and tertiary statistical indicators, graphical representation, and systemic methodological approaches. Based on the findings, several proposals are formulated to improve the situation of the elderly population in the Republic of Moldova.

The article was elaborated under the research subprogramme 030102: Demographic Transition in the Republic of Moldova: Specific Features, Socio-Economic Implications, and the Consolidation of Demographic Resilience (2024-2027).

Keywords: elder population, pension, poverty

PECULIARITIES OF DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT IN TAJIKISTAN

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The current demographic situation in Tajikistan is to some extent a continuation of the demographic behavior that took place before the collapse of the Soviet Union, especially in matters of reproductive and matrimonial behavior of the population. Currently, the population of Tajikistan is about 10.3 million people in 2024, of which the share of the labor force is -57.5%, the population under the working age is 35.9%, and the population older than the working age is 6.6%. At the same time, the latest official statistical sources show that the population growth in 2023 was - 2.1% and the total fertility rate is 3.0 in 2023.

The purpose of the study is to identify the features of demographic development in Tajikistan and develop practical measures to achieve a demographic optimum.

The main objectives of the research include studying the relationships between demographic phenomena and processes such as fertility, mortality, marriage, migration; modeling and forecasting these processes; developing methods for studying demographic processes and forecasting.

The results: We have found that demographic development has its own characteristics in Tajikistan. The lack of productive employment, especially for women and men, a large proportion of the rural population (71%) and the preserved traditions and customs in matters of fertility serve as features of demographic development.

Keywords: population, fertility, family, birth rate, population migration, demographic development

YOUTH MIGRATION BETWEEN CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES: A COMPARATIVE LITERATURE REVIEW

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This paper provides a synthesis of the specialized literature on youth migration, based on the analysis of more than twenty studies and reports identified in international databases (Web of Science, Scopus, OECD, Eurofound, UNDP, IOM). Youth emigration emerges as a complex and multi-causal process, shaped by economic, institutional, and socio-cultural factors. Wage disparities, difficulties in the transition from education to the labor market, and employment precarity intersect with aspirations for educational and professional advancement. At the same time, weak governance and corruption further exacerbate migratory pressures. While classical push–pull and neoclassical models offer a solid explanatory foundation, contemporary theories, such as the aspirations–capabilities approach (Carling; de Haas), highlight the gap between mobility intentions and actual opportunities. Education and human capital increase the likelihood of mobility, whereas NEET status and limited labor market prospects intensify emigration intentions. In the case of the Republic of Moldova, research specifically dedicated to youth migration remains insufficient. This analysis highlights the existing gaps while underlining the need for public policies that transform migration from a constrained option into a genuine choice, embedded within a broader framework of sustainable sociodemographic development.

This paper was developed within the framework of project 25.80012.0807.27TC “Mechanisms for Mitigating the Intensity of Youth Emigration in Order to Strengthen Sociodemographic Sustainability in the Republic of Moldova.”

Keywords: youth migration, emigration determinants, push–pull models, aspirations–capabilities framework

BRIDGING MIGRATION AND RURAL REGENERATION: EU LINGUISTIC INTEGRATION POLICIES FOR DEMOGRAPHIC SUSTAINABILITY

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As demographic shifts accelerate across Europe, rural depopulation, migration, and refugee resettlement increasingly challenge policy-makers. This paper examines how EU strategies—particularly linguistic integration initiatives—can address rural migration and asylum reception while promoting economic sustainability and demographic resilience. Building on previous research on unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs) in Southern Italy, the current study investigates language policies, certification frameworks, and community support mechanisms that shape integration outcomes in underserved regions. Through qualitative fieldwork and policy analysis, the study highlights how language proficiency facilitates legal recognition, improves employment prospects, and fosters social cohesion—key components of demographic renewal. The research also explores how AI-powered tools, such as adaptive learning platforms and instant translation applications, can supplement traditional education approaches by tailoring programs to individual learners and lowering linguistic barriers.

By bridging migration realities through inclusive language strategies—enhanced by technology—EU policies have the potential to harmonize asylum reception with rural development goals. Linguistic integration emerges not only as an educational tool but also as a strategic asset for resource efficiency, intergenerational equity, and sustained growth. The paper advocates for more nuanced, intersectional frameworks that align local demographic needs with digital innovation and inclusive governance.

Keywords: linguistic integration, Italy, refugees, education, L2, demographic resilience, AI education

SOCIOCULTURAL ADAPTATION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION: EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The research examines the level of integration of immigrants – foreign citizens, especially children – into the educational system of the Republic of Moldova. Integration becomes a key factor in ensuring social cohesion, avoiding exclusion, and preventing social collisions. The analysis was conducted on the dynamics and structure of immigration flows of foreigners by age, sex, and country of origin, as well as data on the enrollment of foreign children in the national educational system. The systematization and generalization of data from various national and international statistical and administrative sources allowed their comparative analysis and graphical representation. The results indicated the constant increase in the number of foreigners and the share of children among them, as well as the diversification of countries of origin, where social, cultural, economic, and religious traditions differ essentially from those in the Republic of Moldova. The practice of European states regarding the integration of immigrant children into the educational system was studied, in correlation with the international commitments undertaken by the Republic of Moldova and the country's national priorities. A lack of a series of indicators is observed, which does not allow the evaluation and monitoring of the level of integration in the educational system, the correlation of school performance between foreign and native children, the post-educational trajectory of foreigners, etc., a fact that does not allow an objective estimation of the costs and effectiveness of integration measures.

The article was elaborated under the research subprogramme 030102: Demographic Transition in the Republic of Moldova: Specific Features, Socio-Economic Implications, and the Consolidation of Demographic Resilience (2024-2027).

Keywords: immigrant integration, education system, foreign children, Moldova

MIGRATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE POST-PANDEMIC PERIOD. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

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Migration has existed since ancient times, but has recorded different intensities from one historical stage to another and has developed new forms. The aim of the paper is to analyze the phenomenon of migration and remittances in the European Union in the post-pandemic period (2021-2024), and their economic implications (effects on the labor market, economic growth and demographic balance). The methodology used is descriptive and empirical, by calling on various bibliographic sources, with a preponderance of foreign specialized literature, as well as a quantitative methodology, for the processing and analysis of data taken from international databases.

Keywords: migrants, personal transfers, labor market, demography, economic growth, European Union

STRENGTHENING DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE THROUGH RETURN MIGRATION AND DIASPORA IN MOLDOVA

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Return migration and diaspora engagement are increasingly recognized as potential levers for strengthening demographic and socioeconomic resilience in Moldova, a country marked by persistent emigration, population decline, and aging. This article examines how the scale and characteristics of Moldovan return migration affect demographic decline and how national policies attempt to capitalize on the potential of return migrants and the diaspora. Using disaggregated data on international migrant flows by citizenship, we provide a novel analytical perspective on the magnitude and characteristics of return migration.

The findings reveal that over the past decade, Moldovan citizens accounted for 93.4% of the total negative migration balance, underscoring that demographic imbalances are primarily driven by the outflow of the native population, while the contribution of foreign nationals to net migration remains limited. Nevertheless, specific groups of foreign residents—particularly Romanian and Russian citizens—exerted a compensatory demographic effect, partially offsetting net losses in certain years. In practice, in certain years, population decline caused by Moldovan emigration was mitigated by positive net inflows from Romania and Russia. These results highlight both the demographic vulnerability associated with continued emigration and the potential role of selective immigration in alleviating population loss.

The article was elaborated under the research subprogramme 030102: Demographic Transition in the Republic of Moldova: Specific Features, Socio-Economic Implications, and the Consolidation of Demographic Resilience (2024-2027).

Keywords: return migration, diaspora, migration policy, demographic resilience, Moldova

SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG OLDER ADULTS IN EUROPE: THE ROLE OF MIGRATION AND SOCIO-GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXTS

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Suicidal behavior among older migrants remains underexplored, despite the complex interplay of different factors that contribute to its development and persistence. These challenges are heightened for older migrants due to cultural dissonance, language barriers, social isolation, and limited healthcare access (Caidi et al., 2020; Anantapong et al., 2024). Socioeconomic inequalities, loneliness, and declining health are factors associated with suicidal ideation (Borrell et al., 2020; McClelland, 2020; Nesturi & Nasufi, 2025), while migration adds stress through integration and acculturation difficulties (Berry, 1980; APA Council on Geriatric Psychiatry & Llorente, 2019). Using SHARE data, this study found that individual factors such as advanced age, lower education, loneliness, and depression were significant predictors of suicidal ideation across both migrant and non-migrant populations. Even though migration status itself was not identified as a significant predictor of suicidal ideation, the results showed that place of residence (rural-urban) plays an important role in the case of migrants, with those living in rural areas at increased risk. This study calls for effective policy and practice to improve mental health and prevent suicidal behavior among older adults with a migration background.

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Keywords: late-life suicide, migration, aging, SHARE, logistic regression, ICC, European populations

CONTRIBUTION OF CAUSES OF DEATH TO PREMATURE MORTALITY AMONG MALES IN SELECTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Premature mortality among the adult population is a significant concern in contemporary demography. However, a thorough understanding of the progress made requires a more detailed examination of causes of death and, more specifically, their role in the development of premature mortality. This study aims to evaluate recent changes in the age and cause-specific structure of premature mortality among the male population of selected European countries, focusing on the varied impact of causes of death on lifespan disparity. The calculation of cause-specific contributions to lifespan disparity was carried out using the stepwise replacement algorithm, applied to both age structure and cause-of-death profiles.

The findings show a notable shift away from reducing early-life mortality towards improvements seen in adulthood, where non-communicable diseases – especially cardiovascular conditions and neoplasms – are central. In many cases, the continued or renewed rise in chronic disease-related deaths among adults undermines earlier progress. In this context, further reductions in lifespan inequality will rely on more effectively targeted health policies, focusing on preventing and managing chronic conditions and promoting health equity throughout the entire life course.

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Keywords: premature mortality, lifespan disparity, causes of death.

DECODING LIFE EXPECTANCY GAPS: A LONG-TERM DECOMPOSITION ANALYSIS OF THREE WHO EUROPEAN REGION COUNTRY GROUPS

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Life expectancy at birth serves as a proxy measure of community health, indicating socio-economic development, healthcare accessibility, and the success of health policies. This study examines the development and variability of life expectancy at birth among three geographically, politically, culturally, but also climatically distinct groups of countries in the WHO European Region: Former Soviet Countries (FSC), Central & Eastern European Countries (CEEC), and Western European Countries (WEC), using data from the World Bank spanning from the mid-1960s to 2021. A quantitative analysis evaluated mortality disparities, applying the principle of mean differences in values of life expectancy at birth, both within- and between- the studied groups of countries. This methodology enables the study of long-term patterns over several decades, includes gender-specific analyses, and emphasizes internal diversity within each group. The results show that mortality disparities have either stayed constant or decreased gradually, with the largest life expectancy gap between FSC and WEC (over 12 years for males and nearly 10 years for females). CEEC countries exhibit significant internal heterogeneity, with some countries converging toward WEC levels, while others resemble FSC patterns.

Keywords: life expectancy at birth, decomposition analysis, mortality gap, WHO European Region, societal development, political transition, health inequalities

SEASONAL MORTALITY IN MOLDOVA: AN ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH, 2018–2023

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The distribution of deaths varies unevenly across calendar years due to seasonal peaks in mortality when certain conditions worsen because of temperature changes, and the limited capacity of healthcare systems to operate during high demand or public holidays. Additional factors that influence the mortality fluctuations are caused by the professional activities and behavioural patterns of the population. This research analyses the seasonal mortality in Moldova during the 2018–2023 period with a focus on the leading causes of death. The results show a higher mortality during the cold season of the year, particularly in January and December. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a sharp increase in the number of deaths occurred in October–November 2020 and March–April 2021. A visible difference in the number of deaths is observed between the days of the week, especially for those caused by diseases of the circulatory system and external factors. The results will contribute to a better understanding of mortality trends in Moldova, enabling adjustments to the health system's capacity according to population needs during peak seasons.

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Keywords: seasonal mortality, causes of death, mortality fluctuations

ECONOMIC LIFE CYCLE: COMPARATIVE INSIGHTS FROM NATIONAL TRANSFER ACCOUNTS

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The concept of the economic life cycle describes how individuals' consumption and labour income vary with age, generating periods of deficit and surplus across the life span. Imbalances between consumption and labour income at different ages may result in lifecycle deficits or surpluses, which are addressed through public transfers, private transfers, or asset reallocations. Effective coordination of these mechanisms is essential both at the individual level, to secure wellbeing across the life course, and at the societal level, to support intergenerational sustainability. This study examines the economic life cycle in Moldova within a comparative framework, using synthetic indicators derived from the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) methodology of age-specific production and consumption profiles. By focusing on these measures, the analysis captures the balance between production and consumption at different stages of life and situates Moldova's position in relation to broader European patterns.

The findings emphasise the need for policies that promote labour market participation, enhance productivity, and support younger generations through education and family measures, while ensuring sustainable financing of consumption at older ages. The study provides insights that may inform policy design, highlighting the utility of the economic life cycle approach and the contribution of the NTA framework to addressing economic challenges from a population and development perspective.

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Keywords: economic life cycle, consumption and labour income, National Transfer Accounts (NTA), population and development, Moldova

DEATH CYCLICALITY BY BIRTH MONTH IN MOLDOVA

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The month of birth is a proxy for the conditions of the fetal and early infant development. Previous studies showed that individuals born in spring have higher mortality than those born in autumn. This study explores the mortality inequalities by birth month among Moldovans dying from 2014 to 2019, with an additional inquiry into mortality from 2020 to 2023. The six most common primary causes of death in this period were chosen for this: chronic ischemic heart disease (I25.9), cirrhosis (K74.6), hypertension with heart failure (I11.0), thrombosis of precerebral arteries (I64.0), atherosclerotic heart disease (I25.1), and COVID-19 (U07.1). Due to the data limitations, the average age of death was used as a dependent variable. There are some substantial deviations from the general pattern of better health among autumn-born and worse health among spring-born individuals. For men and women, the positive effects of the month of birth are concentrated at the beginning of the year, while the negative ones are concentrated at the end. Additionally, men born from August to October have a higher lifespan. Men and women differed in the cardiovascular diseases that had significant seasonality, but such seasonality of cirrhosis and COVID-19 deaths was not detected.

Keywords: mortality, birth month mortality, inequality

MOLDOVAN PENSION RESILIENCE UNDER DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURE UP TO 2040

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Population aging and mass emigration challenge the sustainability of Moldova's pay-as-you-go pension system, raising questions about its future, the standard of living for Moldovan pensioners in the coming years and possible reforms. The purpose of this research is to attempt to answer these questions by projecting the average pension in Moldovan lei at constant 2021 PPP values for the period from 2025 up to 2040. Drawing on official demographic and macroeconomic data for 1991-2024, official demographic projection for Moldova until 2040 and using econometric modeling with endogenous and exogenous economic growth models, 120 scenarios of average pensions in Moldova for 2025-2039 were developed. Despite demographic headwinds, Moldova can expect significant positive growth in average pension levels by 2040 in real terms, provided that economic growth will be either at average level projected according to endogenous growth models (3.34%) or at average level projected according to exogenous growth models (4.54%) and pension expenditures will be slightly above current proportions of GDP or at average EU level. The results of the study indicate that pension system sustainability depends primarily on economic growth rather than structural reforms such as mandatory funded components.

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Keywords: Moldova, pensions, sustainability, demographic projection, economic growth model

STATISTICAL INDICATOR USUALLY RESIDENT POPULATION (PRO): CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES AND IMPLEMENTATION PERSPECTIVES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The "Usually Resident Population" (URP) indicator has become the international standard for demographic statistics, serving as a basis for public policies in migration, labor markets, education, and health. This paper examines the conceptual foundations of URP, the international and European regulatory frameworks, and the specific challenges of its implementation in the Republic of Moldova. The research relies on a comparative analysis of UN and Eurostat guidelines, national legislation, and the 2014 and 2024 censuses. Findings highlight the advantages of URP for international comparability and evidence-based policymaking, while also revealing difficulties caused by large-scale emigration and weak administrative registers. The experience of the Republic of Moldova demonstrates that PRO can become a strategic tool in socio-economic planning, provided that administrative sources are connected and methodological harmonization is achieved with the European Statistical System.

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Keywords: usually resident population, census, demographic statistics, migration, administrative registers, Moldova

SHIFTS IN CONTRACEPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND REPRODUCTIVE AUTONOMY: INSIGHTS FROM MOLDOVA

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This study examines the dynamics of contraceptive use and reproductive health in the Republic of Moldova using data from two rounds of the Generations and Gender Survey (2020 and 2024). The topic is of high relevance, as access to and patterns of contraceptive use are closely linked to public health, demographic change, and gender equality. A longitudinal perspective allows for the identification of both stability and shifts in reproductive behavior, while also highlighting methodological challenges in ensuring comparability across survey waves.

The analysis accounts for differences in the age groups covered in each round and stresses the importance of recalculating indicators to maintain consistency. By disaggregating data by type of method, marital status, education, residence, and socioeconomic background, the study uncovers clear trends. Modern contraceptives are gaining ground, traditional methods are gradually declining, and preferences vary significantly across subpopulations. Regional and urban–rural disparities remain pronounced, as do inequalities linked to education, income, and occupational status.

Overall, findings reveal a gradual shift toward more effective contraceptive methods, alongside persistent unmet needs and gaps in reproductive autonomy. These results provide valuable evidence for policymakers and health professionals seeking to improve family planning services and reduce structural inequalities in reproductive health.

Keywords: reproductive health, contraceptive use, GGS, family planning