

Listă de abrevieri

EQOL	European Quality of Life
EU	European Union
ICCV	Institutul de Cercetare a Calității Vieții
IDU	Indicele Dezvoltării Umane
INS	Institutul Național de Statistică
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PIB	Produsul Intern Brut
PPP	Paritatea Puterii de Cumpărare
TVA	Taxa pe Valoarea Adăugată
UE	Uniunea Europeană

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Cuvânt înainte

Prezentul volum este al treilea, cu aducerea împreună a unor contribuții științifice anterioare.

Cel de-al doilea volum a apărut în anul 2015, tot la Editura Pro Universitaria „Studii sociologice 2004-2014”. Pe lângă articolele din reviste științifice sunt incluse și evocări a unor demersuri de cunoaștere pe care le-am realizat de-a lungul timpului: metodologie; structură și mobilitate socială; comunitățile locale etc.

Cât privește primul volum, acesta datează din anul 2004: „Studii de sociologie, calitatea vieții și politici sociale”, Editura Universității din Pitești, colecția Profiluri sociologice, ediție îngrijită de către Cornel Constantinescu, Asociația Română de Sociologie. Textele se referă la: natura măsurării sociale; calitatea vieții; reforma socială.

În volumul de față am introdus două lucrări elaborate la începutul perioadei de tranziție la democrație și economia de piață (1991 și 1996), ele putându-se constitui în repere comparative pentru alte abordări ale temelor respective: democratizarea și migrația specialiștilor. Am păstrat textul inițial cu excepția unor mici corecturi de redactare.

Primul Raport (text în limba engleză), elaborat pe baza unei cercetări internaționale desfășurată în decembrie 1990, coordonare cercetători de la Academia Ungară de Științe și suport de la Universitatea Georgetown din Washington DC, s-a referit la atitudini sociale, politice și economice. Cercetarea a avut la bază lucrarea lui S. Barnes și M. Kaase „Political action. Mass participation in five democracies” Sage, Beverly Hills, 1979.

Al doilea Raport, din anul 1996, privește migrația specialiștilor (coord. cercetător din Bulgaria).

În al doilea rând am în vedere o serie de articole publicate în perioada 2015-2019.

NB. Mulțumesc colegilor Cornelia Dumitru, Mircea Dumitrana și Alin Casapu pentru asistența tehnică, și a celor de la Biroul economic pentru accesul la arhive.

PARTEA I

Social, political and economic attitudes of the population during the transition period

Methodology

The Revolution of December 1989, one of the last to take place in Eastern Europe, has abolished, unfortunately with many human life losses, the communist political regime and has opened the way to democracy and market economy.

The social and political forces that had participated in the Revolution, together with those that appeared afterwards realized the necessary consensus required by the fundamental changes in the political and economic spheres. The setting up of a new political regime was the immediate result of the Revolution. Other democratic changes, and above all the economic ones, need more time. Everyday life in the ex-socialist countries shows that the process of transition to market economy is very difficult and social costs are extremely high.

One year after the Revolution (December 1990) the survey undertaken in the framework of an international project¹ is an

¹ I was recommended by the Romanian sociologists who were contacted by coordinators.

Note 2019 – I mention that in my capacity of Deputy Director of the Institute for Quality of Life Research (April 1990-June 2015) over the period June 1990-March 1991 I fulfilled the position of Interim Director, as the Director of the Institute, Professor Cătălin Zamfir, held the position of Minister of Labor. Within our Institute was employed a significant number of researchers and research assistants with whom we performed field work in applying the questionnaires.

opportunity to assess the public opinion about the reforms and their significance, their acceptance by the population, as well as their options regarding social, political and economic aspects.

The questionnaire used by all the countries participating in this research includes a large range of elements related to: political culture and interest in politics, the population's opinions and behavior: the attitude towards the ongoing changes, the perception and the assessment of the current situation; the changes in the transition process; the evaluation of the activity of governmental institutions and of political leaders, and the level of trust in institutions. It also includes a comparative survey on the position of our country in a geographical context, etc. It is not our intention to give a detailed presentation of the contents of the questionnaire or of the underlying assumptions. In fact these aspects result from data analyses. Nevertheless, mention should be made of the fact that the questionnaire was elaborated according to the research methodology. Due to its complexity, certain categories of population had difficulties in understanding it. Some of the questions proved to be less accessible. Consequently, some subjects did not answer to them or said they did not know the answer. I would want to stress that the research was carried out in a tense social and political climate; one could say an almost normal one for a period of transition. The population of our country is not yet used to sociological surveys, even less so to those concerning political issues. However, the data from the research, the conditions, and the general behavior of the population justify our confidence in the results obtained. Most of the subjects were willing to co-operate. They considered the questions carefully, and made proof of a relatively high degree of confidence. The general climate of freedom influenced the respondents in such a way that they answered the questions without constraint or self-censorship. Questions were asked on this occasion, one would not dream of asking before the Revolution. Most respondents answered normally but in some cases, the percentage of rejections was important. We do not mean to say that situations did not exist in

which the subjects avoided to express their points of view, more so as a certain degree of intolerance is felt in our society. Problems of "desirability" are present in one way or another, without undermining the credibility of the survey. The presentation of the results is structured according to the main parts of the research: 1. political culture; 2. social and political activism; 3. perception of domestic political situation; 4. attitude towards the economic reform.

First, we present some characteristics of the sample investigated in Romania. The survey was carried out on a quota-stratified sample, n=1234 subjects, aged over 18 years.

The sample was made up according to the following criteria: social and cultural areas (16), type of residence, sex, and age. The structure of the sample is the following: 1) Sex: male 50%; female 50%; 2) Age groups: 18-20 years - 9%; 21-30 years - 19%; 31-40 years - 27%; 41-50 years - 14%; 51-60 years - 15%; over 60 years - 16%; 3) Residence: rural 47%; urban 53%; 4) Occupation: peasants 16%; workers 39%; civil servants 15%; university-graduated specialists 12%; private entrepreneurs 4%; students 6%; others 8%.

1. The Political Culture

The study of the population's political culture is both important and difficult due to the specific complexity of the phenomenon in question. One can distinguish at least a double significance: as a characteristic of an individual or a group, and as an important element in the achievement of democracy. While the first aspect regards the personality of the individual or the political profile of a group, the second aspect is relevant to the way in which democratic institutions function, especially about the possibility of the civil society to supervise them.

In many international surveys, political culture has been defined by such elements as people's interest in information on political issues, meaning of and commitment to democratic values, knowledge of the main political directions.