

## Foreword

The year 2007 marked a historic milestone for Romania: the country's accession to the European Union. This pivotal step opened up a vast horizon of opportunities but also posed significant challenges that have profoundly shaped Romania's economic, social, and political trajectory. The present book, *European Union Policies and Funding Programmes: The Case of Romania*, authored by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Ec. Andrea Feher, offers a comprehensive and well-documented exploration of the mechanisms governing Romania's relations with the European Union. True to the author's analytical approach, this book is an indispensable resource for understanding both the historical turning points and the strategies that drive Romania's economic and social development as an EU member state.

The content of this work addresses the major themes defining the economic and financial relations between Romania and the European Union. The analysis begins with the historical and political context of 2007, the moment when Romania joined the European family. It then presents the most significant EU common financial policies, namely the **Cohesion Policy** and the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**.

The book delves into the impact and significance of the 2021-2027 financial framework, placing particular emphasis on **Romania's operational programmes** and the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)** as vital instruments for post-pandemic economic recovery. The final chapter is dedicated to **Romania's CAP Strategic Plan for 2023-2027**, a key element in the country's **sustainable agricultural development**. This plan represents an integrated and comprehensive approach to supporting Romanian agriculture, focusing on key objectives such as **enhancing farmers' competitiveness**, **promoting sustainable agricultural practices**, and **strengthening the role of rural communities**. The 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan presents a significant opportunity for Romania's agricultural and rural development, while also posing deep structural challenges. To this end, the author provides a critical analysis, structured around the **programme's strengths, identified challenges**, and **recommendations for improvement**, offering valuable insights for future budgeting and policy design.

The book *European Union Policies and Funding Programmes: The Case of Romania* is intended for a diverse audience, including students, researchers, public officials, policymakers, and all those interested in European financial mechanisms and their impact on citizens' daily lives. Written in a clear and accessible style, the book provides readers with a well-grounded overview of the complex and highly relevant topic of funding, contributing to a better understanding of both the opportunities that the European Union offers Romania and the responsibilities that the country assumes as a member of this unique project.

Undoubtedly, this work serves as both a valuable source of information and an inspiration for those wishing to explore these topics further. It also provides a solid foundation for constructive discussions on Romania's European future.

The author of *European Union Policies and Funding Programmes: The Case of Romania*, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Ec. Andrea Feher, is an Associate Professor and Doctoral Supervisor at the Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism within the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, as well as a Scientific Researcher at the Rural Development Centre of the Romanian Academy – Timișoara Branch. She is a distinguished specialist in agricultural financing and rural development. Having closely followed the author's academic and professional journey, from an outstanding student and doctoral candidate to an accomplished expert, I can confidently state that Dr. Andrea Feher has reached full professional maturity - an assessment brilliantly confirmed by the content of this book.

Finally, I emphasise that the scientific value of this book is a direct result of the exceptional professional training and expertise of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Ec. Andrea Feher, both as an educator and a scientific researcher. For this reason, it is my great pleasure to recommend this book for reading and study to all those interested in understanding the European Union's funding mechanisms.

Timisoara, January 2025  
**Acad. Păun Ion Otiman**

## **List of Abbreviations**

<b>APIA</b>	Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture
<b>BISS</b>	Basic Income Support for Sustainability
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CAP NSP</b>	National Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CF</b>	Cohesion Fund
<b>CIS-YF</b>	Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers
<b>CMO</b>	Common Market Organisation
<b>CNDP</b>	Complementary National Direct Payments
<b>CRISS</b>	Complementary Redistributive Income Support for Sustainability
<b>EAFRD</b>	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
<b>EAGF</b>	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
<b>EAGGF</b>	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
<b>ECSC</b>	European Coal and Steel Community
<b>EEAS</b>	European External Action Service
<b>EEC</b>	European Economic Community
<b>EMFAF</b>	European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
<b>ERDF</b>	European Regional Development Fund
<b>ES</b>	European Semester
<b>ESF</b>	European Social Fund
<b>ESF+</b>	European Social Fund Plus
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EURATOM</b>	European Atomic Energy Community
<b>GAEC</b>	Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GNI</b>	Gross National Income
<b>IACS</b>	Integrated Administration and Control System
<b>IDA</b>	Intercommunity Development Association
<b>JTF</b>	Just Transition Fund
<b>LAG</b>	Local Action Group
<b>LU</b>	Livestock Unit
<b>MADR</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MFF</b>	Multiannual Financial Framework

<b>NES</b>	National Energy System
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NRRP</b>	National Recovery and Resilience Plan
<b>NUTS</b>	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
<b>OP</b>	Operational Programme
<b>POAT</b>	Technical Assistance Operational Programme
<b>POCIDIF</b>	Smart Growth, Digitalisation, and Financial Instruments Operational Programme
<b>PODD</b>	Sustainable Development Operational Programme
<b>POEO</b>	Education and Employment Operational Programme
<b>POIDS</b>	Inclusion and Social Dignity Operational Programme
<b>POR C</b>	Center Regional Operational Programme
<b>POR NE</b>	North-East Regional Operational Programme
<b>POR NV</b>	North-West Regional Operational Programme
<b>POR S</b>	South Muntenia Regional Operational Programme
<b>POR SE</b>	South-East Regional Operational Programme
<b>POR SV</b>	South-West Oltenia Regional Operational Programme
<b>POR V</b>	West Regional Operational Programme
<b>PORs</b>	Regional Operational Programmes
<b>POS</b>	Health Operational Programme
<b>POT</b>	Transport Operational Programme
<b>POTJ</b>	Just Transition Operational Programme
<b>RDI</b>	Research-Development-Innovation
<b>REACT-EU</b>	Assistance for Cohesion and Territorial Recovery for Europe
<b>RIS</b>	Research and Innovation Strategies
<b>RRF</b>	Recovery and Resilience Facility
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
<b>STEP</b>	Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform
<b>TAU</b>	Territorial Administrative Unit
<b>TEN-T</b>	Trans-European Transport Network
<b>VAT</b>	Value Added Tax
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation