

Contents

Glossary of acronyms	7
Figures and tables	9
Preface	13
Introduction	15
The research context	17
Public policies. A theoretical approach	19
The policy cycle models.....	20
Policy actors and the decision-making process.....	22
A theoretical approach to the policy networks.....	25
Science and geographical diffusion of knowledge	30
Social construction of knowledge	30
Institutional approaches to encourage innovation and knowledge diffusion.....	32
Understanding science through collaboration	34
The role of scientists in the policymaking process	40
The call for evidence-based public policy.....	40
The relationship between evidence, research, and public policies as models of interactions.....	41
The interaction between researchers and policymakers. From values to language and comprehensive meanings	43
Is there an alliance between COVID-19 public policies and science?.....	47
Methods. Case studies in managing COVID-19 pandemic: Romania, Sweden and Italy	49
Understanding the socio-geographical context of the pandemic	49
The social network analysis design.....	51
Social network analysis and the dynamics of policy formation.....	56
The Oxford stringency index.....	58
Data modeling	62
The rationale behind the case studies: Romania, Sweden, and Italy.....	68
Data organization	71
Platforms & Software tools used to model the data.....	74
Results. The dynamics of COVID-19 case evolution	76
The pandemic on set.....	76

The pandemic situation at the end of December 2020	78
Understanding policy through qualitative insights and scientific research during COVID-19 in Romania, Sweden, and Italy (2020)	82
Romania	82
Sweden	86
Italy.....	89
Understanding policy through qualitative insights and scientific research during COVID-19 in Romania, Sweden, and Italy (2021)	92
Romania	92
The evolution of stringency index. Effective public policies	106
Assessing efficiency of pandemic measures using the stringency index	106
Mimetism as a public policy response	111
How long is too long? The survival of public policies	114
Romania, 2020 and 2021	114
Sweden, 2020 and 2021	119
Italy, 2020 and 2021	121
Cox Proportional Hazards Models and results validation	125
Accelerated Failure Time models as an alternative to Cox Regression Models	126
Romania, 2020 and 2021	128
Sweden, 2020 and 2021	129
Italy, 2020 and 2021	130
Discussion, conclusion, and future research directions	132
Pandemic reflections	132
Romania	134
Sweden	136
Italy.....	137
The effectiveness of restrictions. A face validity paradox	139
Policy recommendations. Building scientific literacy.....	142
Originality of current research	146
Study limitations and further directions.....	148
Supplementary material	151
References	165