

Romania as Participant in the Globalization Process

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Abstract: The objective of the paper is to present the EU policies, how they relate with Member States and with its partners, the multiculturalism has never been an impediment, but it has made it special, mentioning here the economic level, where the Union has the highest GDP per capita in the world. Our intention is to present the components of globalization, a phenomenon that is the basis for the European Union and the sudden evolution of Romania in the recent years. Romania was integrated in the globalization process and took advantage of all the benefits of this engine of the modern world. The result lies in a better understanding of EU policies and its effects on the Romanian economy. In this paper we have achieved an analysis of non-refundable grants offered by the European Union for the period 2007-2013 and how they helped the industrial and social development of Romania. The added value of the scientific interpretation of the Romanian situation at economic level is highlighted by the beneficial influence of the European space, opening towards a global market and the original approach in economic terms of the development analysis and participation in the globalization process.

Keywords: GDP; the European Union; foreign policy; economic development

1. Introduction

Globalization does not yet benefit from a universal definition, the information and interpretations thereof are vast, being a relatively new concept, but we can say that globalization is targeting several complex processes, such as: economic, political, social and cultural. What we can say, in particular, is that globalization comprises processes that impact at planetary level, they are international and they aim the union and harmony between states. The economy is one of the most important variables of globalization because it has a major social impact; it relies on the free movement of goods, technology, people, information and goods, services and capital. Globalization regards the world as a whole, it brings a high degree of competitiveness, but also economic and social benefits.

We can say that we are the participants to the largest global unity between states. Over time the regional areas around the world have expanded or were conquered, there have been numerous conflicts and even dividing territories and culturalism. Nowadays we can say that the economic process was the one who granted

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liberalization to markets and people and the awareness of unity. The European Union is leading the global market and it promotes the concept and benefits of globalization. Due to the profit brought by the single market, the European Union tries to support countries that are members in order to adapt to the rapid process of globalization, but also the states that are not members. The European Union promotes globalization, freedom, human rights and democracy. The European Union helps and collaborates with not member states so as not to form a new division of the continent and without being great economic differences between states.

The European Union, which began as a form of economic cooperation between six European countries (France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands), today it reached 28 member states, is an economic and political organization, which promotes both economic growth and development, but also the fundamental human rights and democracy. Romania is among the members of the European Union and it enjoys a sustainable economic development of the single market and security.

Romania is integrated and participating in globalization, from the economic, political and cultural point of view. Due to the recent history of communist Romania, the integration into the global process occurred at a slower pace, but also due to Romania's involvement at economic level in the international system, by becoming an EU member and being directly involved in treaties of cooperation not only with Member states, but also with countries outside the European Union. Romania is involved at global level also in solving security issues, cooperating with neighboring regions, but also as a member of NATO, Romania struggles for balance and stability. We can say that Romania is coping with all the challenges of globalization and it takes advantage of the benefits of this process.

2. Globalization

“The Globalization is a very fast spreading process of social-historical transformation in human history, the greatest challenge of the XXI century, resulting in a common direction across the entire human society and space adequate for our planet”. (Stănescu, 2009, p. 51) In short, globalization has as main axis extending both investment and trade and business interactions between countries of the world, while it proposes an evolution of culture worldwide.

In the first stage, with the end of the Second World War, we have witnessed a rapid evolution of globalization in the global financial market, they have become more integrated, the distance and borders disappeared, foreign investments have increased uncontrollably, until the fall of 2008 when along with the global financial crisis we have witnessed the collapse of the global economy. The world was ruled by a severe economic recession, called also negative economic growth, the IMF

releasing predictions in an article in the World Economic Outlook that several developed countries such as the United States of America, Canada and most of Western Europe will be facing a recession deeper than anticipated. Instead a good development in the context of the crisis had countries such as China and India that have managed to cope quite well, having the advantage their own industry and an abundance of labor force, relying on natural resources and capital endowments.

In the view of the Sociologist George Ritzer the phenomenon of globalization will be difficult to stop “it is currently the most important and extensive phenomenon, it is hard to imagine a scenario which may lead to slowing down or stop it”. (Ritzer, 2010, p. 241)

At that time some it was noted the skepticism on globalization, many have put the failure of the global crisis on the shoulders of globalization, but they could not change the course of the present history where mammoth companies like Wal-Mart, General Motors and Ford Motors with annual revenues greater than the GDP of Norway, Saudi Arabia or Finland, as the new global economy takes on a new form, one more globalized and interconnected.

A special perspective on economics had professor Panos Mourdoukoutas¹ in an article published in Forbes magazine, where he divided globalization in three sides: the good, the bad and the ugly side. *The good side* is expressed by the ease with which products can be marketed in the most distant world markets, easy credit (loans taken in 24 or 48 hours) that can be accessed also online, the money can go through multinational companies more quickly overcoming the barrier of a country, an increase in jobs, revenue growth. *For the bad side* the small investors are pushed aside as also the small businesses which can only survive in the current context of major companies, franchisees which remove those from the market, the competition grows, there are imitation and counterfeit products, there are economic and social disparities, the market entry of new strong competitors causing unstable business opportunities because only there is no power on establishing the pricings. The ugly side of globalization is when governments raise trade barriers which are succeeded by devaluations of the currency and an attempt to escape the vicious circle of income.²

Other elements of globalization without which the modern man would not imagine he could live: the global network of transmission reception, a good example is the internet, mass-media scale at global scale, communication systems represented by transport and more.

It seems that in this chaos caused by the growing desire to increase economic gains, we move farther away from the idea that globalization refers to the evolution

¹ Panos Mourdoukoutas, PhD, Professor of Economics at LIU POST and Forbes Writer.

² <http://www.forbes.com/sites/panosmourdoukoutas/2011/09/10/the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-side-of-globalization/#3b29fe73c21c>.

of people's lives as the American economist of the Joseph E. Stiglitz¹ stated in "The development is about transforming the people's lives, not just transforming economies". (Stiglitz, 2008, p. 55)

Nowadays countries have become individuals who, no matter the intellectual capacity they would still need financial resources to invest in science and technology.

2.1. Economic Globalization

The global economy concept is relatively new, it emerged after World War II, through him we can understand the markets, capital and economies no longer have borders, in this way it increases competitiveness, competition, efficiency and innovation. In the economic terms the globalization brings wealth to the population, we observe by increasing the gross domestic product and through human evolution and satisfying human demand.

After the fall of the Soviet bloc, when the market has become truly free in most regions, unimpeded, exchanges became free, the trade and movement of goods and people was internationalized. Then the economy and the prosperity of regions has had a new opening, we have met an acceleration of economic globalization due to new policies and trade opening because of the principles of democracy. The global economy offers a fair competition, regardless of region, an international integration, thanks to a free global market.

The most obvious effect of globalization is the competition, so we can say that globalization has worked in our favor. Globalization brought rapid economic growth, but also the decrease of poverty. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because we have met increases of global GDP and the living standards have been improved in many areas such as China, Malaysia and Bangladesh, where income disparities and inequality were reduced due to the expansion of globalization. (Dollar, Kraay, & Kleineberg, August 2013)

We conclude the chapter of globalization, a very broad topic that requires a more complex analysis, one of the most important phenomena of our time with a quote from the book "Mechanisms of Globalization of the economist Joseph E. Stiglitz "If we want globalization to work, we need an international economic regime in which the welfare of the developed and developing countries to be easier assured: a new global social contract between developed countries and less developed ones." (Stiglitz, 2008, p. 55)

¹ Joseph E. Stiglitz is economist and professor at Columbia University, he is the recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences (2001).

3. Europe - a Regional Space of Globalization

The European Union is a known organism that unites 28 member states, it was created after the Second World War and it had as purpose the economic cooperation, starting with the name “European Economic Community”. In 1993 it changed its name to “European Union”, a name reflecting that it evolved, including the political side along with the economic one. Spanning 28 countries, we can say that the European Union is a global trading power. One pillar is the Treaty of Rome in 1957 stating that “the reconstruction of Europe must be based on the gradual development of a common market without borders, allowing free movement of goods, services, and capital among the participating countries.”¹

Through its policies the EU is a model of globalization, guaranteeing sustainable development through its projects and viable common security, supporting the European countries already members and the acceding countries.

The European Union has acted as a single voice on the world stage, it also represents 28 separate commercial strategies, it is in first place in world trade and it is considered a region very good in business, taking into account the modern means of transport and communications, producing and selling goods around the world. With a GDP of 25 000^E per capita, the European Union is the largest economy in the world. One advantage is represented by the commercial partnerships; on the first position is EU with 80 EU partners, at a great distance in front of the United States with around 20 partner countries. Another advantage is the low average tariff and a percentage higher than 70% of imports have very low or zero tariffs.²

A special charm of Europe is brought by multiculturalism and diversity, the Union managed all these years to handle this situation very well defending the rights and interests of citizens, which is based on the idea of united Europe.

In the 59 years since its establishment the European Union increased from six members to 28, all the while the European Union has promoted economic growth. During expansion, the European Union has encountered challenges due to economic disparities between Member States. EU offers help to lesser-developed countries through financial instruments and advice to solve problems, for a sustainable development and to help countries reach their full potential economically. Thus the European Union ensures the proper functioning of the internal market and meets its economic targets.

3.1. Brexit - a Shock for the European Union

The Brexit term is joining the abbreviated words Britain and Exit, and according to the results of the referendum of 23.06.2016 citizens chose for Great Britain to leave the EU. Eurosceptics in Britain wanted an exit from the European Union only

¹ http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/flipbook/ro/economic_and_monetary_union_and_the_euro_ro.pdf.

² <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/eu-position-in-world-trade/>.

morally, giving the idea of sovereignty of the people, they desiring further to keep only partnerships and advantages offered by the European Union, it is unlikely that the Member States will accept a negotiating this way. There are too many economic benefits for the UK offered by its membership to the European Union, giving them up in a short time can mean the collapse of the country economically. The UK Eurosceptics see as a new Switzerland in terms of autonomy and sovereignty, but this is very hard to believe that can happen after a long period as an important member of the Union. On the other hand globalization cannot be domesticated in personal interest, as currently Britain cannot cope in terms of Asian industrial competition.

The terms for leaving have not yet been established by the UK of the European Union, but it could mean the biggest economic shock in the recent years by the global crisis. The result of the vote resulted from the early hours by the worldwide stock market crash, depreciation of the pound, rising raw materials prices, European banks have suffered significant losses from day one. It is well known that London is one of the most important business centers in the world and after the exit of UK from the Union many of them will have to move even outside Europe which can have serious consequences for the European Union.

After UK's exit, Germany and France will be the countries that will take over and will have the strongest position in the European Union, while countries like Scotland and Gibraltar being independent will continue with the European Union.

Opinions are divided and it is much speculation occurring these days, the newspaper *The Telegraph* calls it the "biggest disaster that befalls Union Europe"¹ as it is known as no state left the European Union until now, the Russian President Vladimir Putin accuses David Cameron for blackmailing Europe, while European leaders fear that this action could take place in other countries. While it is not a 100% certainty that Britain will leave the European Union, BBC one of the largest television companies in the world and the largest in the United Kingdom notes "it would be seen as political suicide to go against the will of the people expressed through the referendum."²

Even if the decision of the UK as a result of the referendum would have to leave the European Union, the exit itself would be a complicated process considering that Article 50 of the EU Treaty provides that any state that wishes to withdraw from

¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/17/vladimir-putin-accuses-david-cameron-blackmailing-europe-by-calling-referendum>.

² <http://www.vox.com/2016/6/23/12021222/brexit-what-happens-next>.

the European Union, must notify the European Commission of its intention to two years before the decision.¹

3.2. How does the European Union work and which are its economic policies

The European Union funding comes from the Member States' contributions, fines when companies do not comply with the European Union rules, import duties for products from outside of the European Union and contributions from third countries participating in certain programs.

The EU fund management, benefits of transparency, all companies and organizations benefiting from European funds are registered in the public register. Also each Member State contributions to the EU budget, and the amounts that were allocated to each state are public which gives its transparency.

The EU budget is divided between Member States, allocating larger amounts less developed states to reduce disparities, thus the European Union promotes financial cooperation and solidarity.²

The main investment policy of the European Union cohesion policy addresses to all EU regions and supports economic growth, job creation, competitiveness of companies, and it presupposes sustainable development, focusing on improving the quality of life. It reduces economic differences between member countries and it ensures sustainable growth. The cohesion policy objectives are financed through three funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund.³

The cohesion policy is a priority and targeting several areas of major interest to the EU, such as: the convergence objective, European territorial cooperation, regional competitiveness and employment. In this way the cohesion policy aims at improving the single European market, a world economic power, which ranks first as exporter and as an importer on the global market.

For 2014-2020 the EU cohesion policy allocates a budget of 351.8 billion euros that are structured for the following programs:

- Less developed regions: EUR 182.2 billion;
- Cohesion Fund: EUR 63.4 billion;
- More developed regions: EUR 54.3 billion;
- Transition regions: 35.4 billion euros;

¹ <http://www.zf.ro/business-international/live-text-referendum-brexite-oficial-marea-britanie-iesi-uniunea-europeana-dupa-rasturnare-dramatica-situatie-tabara-leave-obtinut-52-voturi-lira-prabuseste-minimul-ultimilor-31-ani-iar-investitorii-15505011>.

² <http://www.mae.ro/node/1623>.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/basic/basic_2014_ro.pdf.

- European territorial Cooperation: EUR 10.2 billion;
- Initiative on employment among young people: EUR 3.2 billion;
- Specific assigning for the outermost regions and sparsely populated EUR 1.5 billion;
- Technical Assistance: EUR 1.2 billion;
- Innovative actions in urban areas: EUR 0.4 billion.¹

Due to economic differences between countries, the European Union has developed tools and policies for accession, which advises and negotiates the terms of accession. The Instrument for Pre-access Assistance (IPA) is the body through which the EU provides technical and financial support to the acceding countries. The purpose of the fund is to help acceding countries, to develop their economy and to provide citizens the same opportunities offered by the Member States. Recipient countries at the moment are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

The International Group of institutions financial consultancy (IFIs AG) implemented by the General Directorate for Enlargement in order to improve coordination between the IFIs and the European Commission in the candidate countries. The regional development and modernization in Southeast Europe is the main objective of the group. The advisory group helps states acceding or potential candidates by solving political problems, by developing infrastructure and it provides advice about developing new programs.

The European Commission is the main provider of grants in the Western Balkans, but also the largest trading partner, accounting for over 75% of total trade exchanges². The European Union supports the states in the Western Balkans at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The European Union shows a special interest for the neighboring states, wanting to promote stability, but also democracy and economic development. The European Neighborhood Policy is meant to improve the relations between the European Union and neighboring countries to cooperate politically and economically. Countries belonging to the European Neighboring project are: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and Russia. (Balaban, 2009, p. 14;30)

Romania has good diplomatic relations with countries from the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), it is a point of contact between European Union and the ENP member states from the east. Romania struggles for democratic ideology,

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/basic/basic_2014_ro.pdf.

² <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/regions/western-balkans/>.

human rights, human freedom, gender equality, for peace, for education and personal safety.

Starting from the idea of dividing the benefits of enlargement, Romania continues to promote European Neighborhood Policy in cooperation with these countries through education, training, research, environmental problems and culture. Another project is offering financial assistance to ENP countries.

4. The Evolution of Romania's Post Accession and the Analysis of the Absorption Rate of Non-refundable European Funds in the First Period

Having as the basic policy the financial cooperation and solidarity, the EU aims at helping less developed countries, and Romania is a good example. In order to reduce economic differences of the member countries, the European Union supports job creation, competitiveness and it proposes a sustainable development through its projects. In this paper we have stopped particularly to the non-refundable funds offered to the Roman state, as we have managed to absorb them in the early years 2007-2013, what we have learnt from these years and what the plans are for the next period 2014-2020, i.e. the results of the first years.

4.1. The Rate of Absorption of European Funds in the period 2007-2013

**Table 1. Total amounts allocated to Romania from 2007 to 2013¹
Billion Euros**

Instrument	Amount
Structural and Cohesion Funds	19.668
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	8.124
European Fisheries Fund	230
European Agricultural Guarantee Fund	6.580
Total	34.602

1) The structural Funds and Cohesion absorbed a total of 19,67 billion Euros being represented by:

a) the "Convergence" objective with a total of 19.21 divided between: Structural Funds 12.66 billion Euros and 6.55 billion Euros Cohesion Fund;

b) the "European Territorial Cooperation" objective with an amount of 0.46 billion euros.

¹ discutii.mfinante.ro/static/10/Mfp/...buget2015/Raportbuget2015_13122014.pdf.

Operational Programmes:

Sectoral Operational Programme Increase of Economic Competitiveness (SOP);

Sectoral Operational Programme - Transport infrastructure (POS T);

Regional Operational Programme (ROP);

Environment Sectoral Operational Programme (SOP);

Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development (SOP HRD);

Operational Programme Administrative Capacity Development (OP);

Operational Programme Technical Assistance (OPTA)¹;

2) Funds from the Agricultural Policy absorbed 14.93 billion euros represented by:

a) European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development with a sum of 8.12 billion euros;

b) European Fisheries Fund with a sum of 0.23 billion euros;

c) European Agricultural Guarantee Fund with a sum of 6.58 billion euros which is supplemented with the limit from 2014.

Table 2. Annual rates of absorption of Structural and Cohesion Funds (FSC), the National Rural Development Programme (RDP), Fisheries Operational Programme (POP) Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS) between 2007-2013²

Billion Euros

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2007-2013
Total annual allocations FSC	0	2067	2725	3241	3477	3724	3979	19213
FSC absorption rate (%)	0%	0%	0,73%	1.1%	3.5%	5.9%	15%	26%
Total annual allocations RDP	0	1146	1502	1401	1357	1359	1356	8124
RDP absorption rate (%)	0%	9,5%	23%	35%	49%	52%	55%	62%
Total annual	15	22	30	36	39	42	45	230

¹ <http://www.eurotrainer.ro/programele-operationale-romania-2007-2013/programele-operationale-romania-2007-2013.html/lang/ro>.

² http://www.fonduri-structurale.ro/Document_Files/Stiri/00014874/cfy36_RAPORT-SAR-2014-FINAL.pdf.

allocations POP								
POP absorption rate (%)	0%	0%	0%	6,8%	16%	21%	28%	26%
Total annual allocations SAPS	440	529	619	700	877	1043	1213	5423
SAPS absorption rate (%)	96%	99%	98%	99,8%	99,7%	100%	98%	99%

The rate of absorption of European funds is in average 20 percent lower than the European average.

The absorption rate for the funds provided by the European Union was disastrous in the first year (2007) with percentages close to 0 for 3 of the 4 funds, continuing from 2008 to 2009 with an absorption rate of 0% to 2 of them. Between 2010-2012 we had a slow but positive trend, increasing in percentage in all sectors from one year to another. The year 2013 was very good for Romania because the rate of absorption from the Structural Funds and Cohesion was higher than other years combined, knowing that the Structural Funds and Cohesion represent about 51% of the amount allocated by the European Union; still in 2013 also the other funds managed to have a positive trend compared to previous years. A positive point we can distinguish in these years the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund managed to exceed the limit during this period and it was supplemented with the limit set for 2014.

Considering that between 2007 and 2013 Romania paid to the EU budget 9.2 billion and it has won 32.9 billion euros, we can see it as a benefit from the viewpoint of financial status for Romania for obtaining the membership of the European Union and the data were reinforced by the statement of Mrs. Alina Mungiu-Pippidi¹ “Yes, it was a good deal for Romania to join the EU. In any version, in any scenario, in any year, Romania had not lost, it had everything to gain.”² It is important to not relate only to figures, programs should be transparent, well-informed population, the goal is to extract as many funds as possible, considering that after the end of the grant period everything is done in a certain time.

“The programming period 2014-2020 is based on the Partnership 2014 document adopted by European Commission Decision C (2014) 5515 / 08.06.2014”.

¹ Alina Mungiu-Pippidi - Chairman of the Academic Society of Romania.

² <http://fonduri-structurale.ro/Detaliu.aspx?t=Stiri&eID=14874>.

This is the strategy of Romania, as an EU Member State, to access five categories of European Structural Funds and Investment (ESIS) in the year 2014-2020, namely: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) Cohesion Fund (CF), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (EMFF).”¹

The amounts to be allocated for the period 2014-2020 will total approximately 43 billion euros and they will be structured as in the table below:

Table 3. The total amounts allocated to Romania for the period 2014-2020²

Billion Euros	
Instrument	Amount
Structural and Cohesion Funds	22.887
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	8.016
European Fund for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs	231
The European Agricultural Guarantee	11.819
Other	549
Total	43.502

Given the rule $n + 2 / n + 3^3$ it was difficult to gather enough data on the absorption of funds in 2014-2016, not being yet given an official report, but according to the estimates we will receive 16.6 billion euros for 2014 respectively 2015.

Also as positive points for Romania post EU, the GDP growth with 33 billion, the exports increase by about 85%, which is succeeded by a doubling of net average wage.

It is important to understand that reaching the upper limit depends only on us, we can take as a model the strategy of other new countries being the last coming in the union, we believe that we have many new things to learn, and leaders need to understand that each accepted project means extra money to the country's economy.

After a brief analysis of the first 9 years in the European Union, the economic balance of Romania is positive, Romania managed to attract more European funds

¹ <http://documents.tips/documents/strategia-fiscal-bugetara20152017.html>.

² discutii.mfinante.ro/static/10/Mfp/...buget2015/Raportbuget2015_13122014.pdf.

³ Where “n” is the current year.

http://www.fonduri-structurale.ro/Document_Files//Stiri/00014874/cfy36_RAPORT-SAR-2014-FINAL.pdf.

than its contribution in the Union, Romania has benefited from infrastructure development and rural development, all this time we enjoyed the economic and social Council to integrate young people, the unemployed and people with disabilities in the labor market. Reducing bureaucracy can help us streamlining and accelerate the results.

5. Conclusion

Globalization is a complex process, which is rapidly changing its constants, which aims at nation internationalization and cooperation for prosperity, development and human welfare. For the development of this process it involves many countries that use the benefits of globalization, among which Romania, which benefited from the single market and the possibility of the European Union free movement of people, goods and capital.

Foreign policy of Romania is the tool that helps us adapt to the conditions and demands in terms of globalization, Romania having economic treaties and countries outside the European Union, Romania is also responsible for promoting democracy, economic development and maintaining peace in the Members of its vicinity.

Romania has exploited the advantages of globalization, a process that was supported by the European Union funds and development projects to face the global market. Even if Romania's process was slower due to the recent history under the communist dictatorship, the adaptation was possible.

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<http://www.eurotrainer.ro/programele-operationale-romania-2007-2013/programele-operationale-romania-2007-2013.html/lang/ro>.