

Report on implementing the project in 2014

Performance as compared to financing

This report describe the project in 2014. Overall, one should say the **all proposed activities were fulfilled and all imposed objectives were reached**. The performance indicators were already at higher levels than the assumed ones. We managed to have such performance since 2013, and this year we simply added new products. One should also remember that, despite outperforming the imposed indicators, the financier unilaterally decided in 2013 and in 2014 to move a significant part of the budget to 2015.

These unexpected decisions are the ones to negatively impact the activities in 2014. They have impeded us to fulfil our tasks at the quality and at the level that we know that we can reach. Although we had a productivity which is remarkable in the context of the Romanian research, we felt a deep frustration to work for free a not to be able to communicate with researchers from other countries, due to the drastic cuts in our budget (we had had access to 22% of the budgeting for 2014).

We do remember the facts, for those who read this report: in 2013 CNCS-UEFISCDI imperatively asked to move part of our budget to 2014. Therefore, we were forced to work in 2013 at lower speed. We were forced to involve in other activities to be sure that our families have their ends met. In 2014, instead to have access to the sums postponed from 2014, we assisted to an astonishing prolongation of the contract, all money postponed from 2013 and half of the 2014 budget being reallocated by the financier to 2015. This led to having this year a budget equal with 22% of those agreed by the same financier in the renewed contract from 2013.

Even so, we have continued to publish, with a decent efficiency, but the activities in the project were at lower level than we would have wanted. To be clearer: in 2013 and in 2014, we have worked more than the financing, and as compared to the payment, we rocketed.

The figures speak for us. If one does not consider the papers sent and accepted in 2013, the new products in 2014 include:

- 4 ISI papers
- 2 BDI articles
- 3 presentations in international conferences

They add to the 7 ISI papers, 6 BDI, 4 book chapters, 2 books that were accepted or published in 2011-2013. In the same period of time, we have delivered 35 presentations in conferences, when we had the opportunity to receive competent feedback, and to make the necessary contact with researchers from

other academic units, as the normal scientific communities work. This year, as one may see, such activities are practically inexistent.

Assumed objectives and performance indicators

Box 1 describes the academic objectives of the whole project, while Table 1 includes the assumed indicators for 2014. As one may noticed, the task was to continue analysing the theme that we have proposed, and to focus on dissemination.

Box 1. Project's objectives

(SO0) Does international migration contribute to the changing of European societies by increasing similarities between European countries, in terms of social values, participation, and life satisfaction, creating the context for better institutional integration?
(SO1) The first issue to be investigated is if migrants do change behaviors and value orientations, and how.
(SO2) The second part is to see if the presence of migrants does change the host society.

Table 1. Plan of activities in 2014, according to the additional contract imposed by CNCS-UEFISCDI in 2014

Objectives	Activities	Results
1. Final analyses for (SO2)	1.1. data analysis and writing papers	1. Conference presentations (minim 2)
	1.2 presenting results in conferences and submitting papers to journals	2. At least three submitted papers
2. Dissemination	2.1. Maintaining the website	1. Updated site

2014: Results, outcomes, main (preliminary) conclusions

Our publications in 2014 followed four directions. They reflect the way in which the project developed and its current stage. They contribute to reaching the project's main goals, and prepare the final results of the project, planned now, against our wish, for 2015.

On one hand we continued to discuss how immigrants behave, think and what attitudes they express. The focus is on what happen in the host society. The published works (mainly Voicu, 2014 – see the entire publication list in the end of this report) show that there is a specific way of doing, typical for migrants, that combines the cultural influence of the host society and the one of the country of origin. We have one more

time the evidence that the assumptions of early socialisation and later institutionalisation act simultaneously and complementarily. This supports the literature on transnationalism, and creates one of the essential prerequisites for investigating the objective SO2, our main target in 2014.

In this way, one may affirm that the arrival of migrants changes the social context in which societies exist. The process modifies the social norms with which both migrants and natives get in contact. Proving the force of the institutionalization assumption, we have showed that people change at adult age, and this can be due to the frequent interaction with social norms that they internalize. Consequently, if a group of migrants brings with itself new social values, institutionalized as informal norms, these norms create a new context for the native inhabitants of the host society, and may change their values.

Therefore, it was normal to investigate the differences across European societies, in order to be able to estimate if intra-European migration may lead to new social norms to change the host societies. The answer can be found in Rusu & Gheorghită (2014), in Tufiş (2014), and in Voicu (2014). The first work shows that there is important variation between European countries with respect to support for social solidarity. The second discusses the cross-European variation in support for democracy and non-democratic alternatives to organized social life (technocratic government, one man-rule, and military governing). The essential finding indicates major cleavages of the representations about how to organize the society, with the Western countries structuring differently as compared to more Western former communist states, and the more eastern former communist ones. The third above-mentioned paper shows that, in Europe, social trust varies substantially from North to South and from East to West.

All these three papers support the idea of intra-European diversity. The implication for the effects of migration is simple. It results that mobility from a country to another creates conditions that may generate societal transformations, and they may concern both the society as a whole, and the group of native inhabitants in particular.

Voicu (2014) goes further in this direction. It underlines the changes in natives' social trust when international migrants settle down in the host society. The findings show that where the trust was already low, it become lower due to the increasing immigrant stock. The opposite holds water as well. While writing this report, similar analyses are carried out on non-migrants from emigration countries. The results are not to be made public yet.

The fourth major direction that we have followed, concerns social solidarity. The topic might seem outside the narrower focus of the project. However, it is very important to prepare the final discussion on potential European convergence due to migration. Rusu & Gheorghită (2014) show that social solidarity is directly linked to euroskepticism, diminishing it. This means that societies with more solidarity (solidarity regards migrants as well) would have the tendency to further expand EU, with consequences on increasing migration and diversity.

Except for these four main directions, there were made supplementary analyses on various other segments of the project. We have approached both methodological aspects and of conceptual construction, preparing the next-year discussion on the intra-European convergence as consequence of international migration. These analyses consider the generalized trust, life satisfaction, civic participation, social solidarity – topics that we plan to deepen in 2015 to answer the major question of the project, as summarized by SOO. The scope of this report does not allow getting into details of results that we have not published yet.

Analysing the reports from previous year, allows noticing the consistence of what we did in the past and what we did this year, and how these naturally complete each other.

2014: Fulfilling the performance indicators

We have assumed, through the contract, for this year, to deliver minimum 2 conference presentations, and to submit 3 papers. (see Table 1 in the previous pages). Table 2 summarize the main products, to be in detail presented in the Annex. It is very easy to notice that we have achieved the goals. Not only that we have submitted papers, but they were accepted and published in good-quality journals. And they are more than planned. The same happens with the presentations. Obviously, the number of all these outputs is much lower than in the past. It is useless to mention who is the one to hinder our efforts in this direction. Maybe I should say that we had other four papers accepted in international conferences (ISA, APSA, and two local conferences in Berlin and Köln), but we were not able to finance the costs to participate in these events.

Table 2. Products in 2014

		Papers		Books in Romania	Book chapters		Conferences		
		ISI	BDI		Outside Romania	In RO	ISI	Non-ISI, outside RO	Non-ISI, in RO
În 2013	Published & accepted	4	2				1	2	
	Conditionally accepted								
	Under review								
	About to be submitted	4							
	Total 2014	8	2				1	2	
Total public. +accept. in 2014		4	2						
TOTAL ÎN 2011-2013		7	6	2	2	2	13	12	10
TOTAL PROJECT 2011-2014 (only published + accepted)		15	8	2	2	2	14	14	10

2014: Vulgarization

2014 includes a few vulgarization actions. First, there is the permanent feeding with announcement of the project' website and its Facebook counterpart. We had at least 1-2 posts monthly, which, putting it simply, are tangible results for the project. A longer interview (20 minutes, Radio România Cultural, October 2014) considered the implications of our findings for the rural communities in Romania.

Conclusion

There is no meaning to have another conclusion than to repeat the last phrase in the 2013 report

„In 2014, it will be tough, if not impossible, to motivate the team to work in the absence of the financial incentives included in the contract (including the ones postponed from 2013) and well-deserved considering the current productivity.”

Annex: list of publications and conferences in 2014

Publications

ISI papers (published)

1. Horățiu Rusu & Andrei Gheorghită. Transnational Solidarity and Euroscepticism, *Sociologia - Slovak Sociological Review*. [JCR Impact Factor (2012): 0.243]
2. Bogdan Voicu, Ionela Vlase. 2014. High-Skilled Immigrants and Social Integration in Times of Crisis. A Cross-European Analysis, *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* 42: 25-37. [JCR impact factor (2013): 1.216]
3. Bogdan Voicu. 2014. Priming Effects in Measuring Life Satisfaction, *Social Indicators Research*. DOI 10.1007/s11205-014-0818-0 [JCR impact factor (2013): 1.452]

ISI papers (accepted)

4. Horățiu Rusu. 2014. Solidarity with the elderly in Romania, accepted for publication in *Revista de Cercetare si Intervenție Socială* [JCR impact factor (2013): 1.141]

BDI articles (published)

1. Claudiu D. Tufiș. 2014. [The Geography of Support for Democracy in Europe](#), *Studia Politica* XIV(2): 165-184.
 2. Bogdan Voicu. 2014. [Immigrants and social trust: Mind the cultural gap?](#), *Studia Politica* XIV(2): 201-220.
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Conferences

ISI

Mircea Comșa, Claudiu Tufiș. Reassessing the Effect of Economic Conditions on Support for Democracy: Evidence from the 2009-2013 Romanian Election Study Panel, conferința *American Political Science Association*, 28-31 august, Washington DC.

Non-ISI

Bogdan Voicu, Ladislav Rabušic. EVS Battery on Values for Children – to have or not to have?, the *Values, Solidarity and Generations* workshop, EVS Foundation & Deusto University, Bilbao, 10.10.2014.

Bogdan Voicu. Do Divorce and Separation Deter Social Trust? Key lecture at the *4th International Annual Research Conference "Cultural and Economic changes under cross-national perspective"*, November 10, 2014 - November 15, 2014, St. Petersburg.

Project director,


Bogdan Voicu