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## HABILITATION THESIS ABSTRACT

**Informational input of accounting in accessing,  
implementation and sustaining projects with European  
funding**

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## ABSTRACT

The starting point of the decision on the initiative to acquire the status of doctoral tutor in accounting is **first and foremost** a practical experience of more than 25 years in accessing projects with non-repayable funding, during which I participated directly, as a consultant in the preparation of financing documents, as well as manager, respectively financial consultant, accountant expert, procurement expert or legal advisor in the implementation of over 200 projects with non-reimbursable financing (from national or European funds) in all main fields of activity and for all the categories of beneficiaries, namely economic agents, associations / foundations, public institutions, territorial administrative units and others. This involvement was continued not very often with the effective management of the accounting of the respective beneficiaries through a company financial advisory and accounting consultancy and tax administration whose manager is over 14 years old.

**Secondly**, the project is supported by the quality of project evaluator for admission to funding for more than 150 projects on several funding programs, including research. This experience has been and continues to be (already over 10 years) as a financial - accounting expert in the technical assistance axes of European funded programs, a role in which I provide financial - accounting solutions to intermediary bodies and even authorities management of some aspects encountered in the approval and implementation of projects, including: establishing the existence of the difficulty to the beneficiaries according to the total capital loss related to the social capital at the time of the approval of the projects and in the period of sustainability, establishing the eligibility of certain expenditures in reimbursement applications, the recording of project results in accounting, and more.

**Thirdly**, the approach is complemented, as a starting point, by the research undertaken over the last 10 years in the field of accessing European funds, research covering all phases of project implementation, namely admission to financing, implementation, insurance sustainability and reporting. Some of the results of this research are said to be presented here as it illustrates the necessity of the approach:

- Whereas the European Commission has necessarily introduced the use of single rates for the upgrading of a project's financial flows (5%), a significant number of investment projects have negative consequences for their holders, both public and private, to which the access decision based on the required discount rates is not based on the evolution of the national reference interest rate; the results of the research have shown that at a mere 1% between the required (lower) and the national (higher) rates, an appreciable number of projects (at least 10% of those approved for funding) would not have been approved since the minimum financial ratios (internal rate of return and net present value) were not reached; the consequence is that when the projects are mature, the financial and project indicators are negative, being losses; there is no adequate mechanism to record these losses either on the accounting plan or on the financing institution or on the beneficiaries, the solution identified principally involves the recording of depreciation adjustments calculated on discount series with the current discount rate and the annual review of this adjustment;
- the degree of effective population coverage of connection tariffs for water and sewerage investment in the 2007-2013 funding horizon was much lower than projected at the launch of the European program, particularly in the context of the recent global crisis, in the conditions under which this supportability is directly related to the regulated connection fees imposed by the European financing program and accepted by the Romanian authorities, tariffs that are not correlated with the financial - accounting information of the regional water operators, respectively with the financial and management accounting;
- we have pioneered, for the first time in Romania, that renewable energy from solar sources is not recommended to be financed on the basis of financial analysis but solely on the basis of economic analysis; under these circumstances, the regulation of green certificates, including the aspects relating to their recording in the accounts, must be improved;

- in relation to the findings above but also with others identified during the research or pre-experience experience, studies carried out in books or articles with a greater than zero impact factor have been developed proposing measures regarding:
  - o financial accounting solutions on the various concrete issues relating to all stages of admission to funding from the 2007-2013 funding horizon;
  - o an accounting compendium on the implementation of Action 1.2.3 of the Competitiveness Operational Progress Program 2014 -2020 "knowledge transfer partnerships";
  - o guides on financial - accounting management of projects with European funding;
  - o increasing green control efficiency in stimulating environmental investment, sustainability and profitability;
  - o the way non-financial information and diversity information is presented by certain enterprises and large groups, in line with the amendments made by Directive 2014/95 / EU;

In addition to these actions, a series of communications were made during the various presentations within the professional bodies to which I am a member, regarding: applying financial corrections, solving the costing of establishing debts related to the irregularities found by the competent authorities in the management of the financing programs, project audit with European funding and others.

In other words, based on these findings summarized above, this is a "cry" to the competent authorities in Romania and the European Union to improve the institutional framework, including (especially) accounting for accessing and managing European funds.

The approach should be interpreted, of course, also in view of the extremely low degree of Romania's access to the European funds allocated for the 2014-2020 horizon.

This approach is not justifiable by the didactic activity related to the described field, in which were included disciplines such as financing of regional development, treasury and risk management, accounting expertise, taxation. It is, in this context, a duty of honor towards students and master students in the transfer of knowledge and skills.

This empowerment thesis synthesizes in the first section the scientific, academic and professional achievements overlapping on the four stages of the life of a project with European funding, namely: accessing, implementing, sustaining and reporting the results.

In the second section, four aspects of the research are analyzed in terms of supplementary accounting information in the access, implementation and sustainability of European funded projects.

These research directions are:

- I. Contributing potential of accounting and financial-accounting information to identify and address unitary expenditures and eligible activities under the main programs related to the 2014-2020 horizon;
- II. Identifying and solving by financial and accounting means the main risks related to the aspects directly related to the actual implementation of the projects with European funding at the level of the beneficiaries;
- III. Improve procedures for managing funds at the level of the competent authorities with their management;
- IV. Fundamental, correlation and verification through the accounting support of the project indicators reporting system in the sustainability period;

The habilitation thesis outlines the development and future development plans of the future professional, scientific and academic careers, detailed in relation to the main research / teaching / practical applications targeted by future research, teaching or practical activities. The key elements on which the career development and career development plan is conceived are the interpenetration between motivation, the objectives of the didactic activity and the research activity in accordance with the organizational objectives as well as the target performance. The main topic to which we will give priority in the immediate period is a risk-based approach to accounting contribution identification of irregularities in the process of managing and using European funds.

**The final section** contains the bibliographical references that were the basis of the empowerment thesis, respectively the personal scientific contributions quoted, as well as the bibliographic references on which the first two sections of the paper were based.

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Signature, Tamas Szora Attila

