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**THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“ECONOMIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH – THEORETICAL,
EMPIRICAL AND PRACTICAL APPROACHES”, ESPERA 2020,
26-27TH OF NOVEMBER 2020**

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Adina MIHĂILESCU¹

Abstract

The International Conference ESPERA (“Economic Scientific Research – Theoretical, Empirical and Practical Approaches”) is organized by “Costin C. Kirițescu” National Institute for Economic Research in partnership with the National Bank of Romania and the Center for Economic Information and Documentation, yearly since 2013. On the 26th and 27th of November 2020 in Bucharest, the Romanian Academy hosted the 7th edition of the ESPERA international conference, which took place under the title “30 Years of Inspiring Academic Economic Research – From the Transition to Market Economy to the Interlinked Crises of 21 Century”. This year, the Proceedings of the conferences ESPERA are published by EBSCO, in view of the evaluation and inclusion in Conference Proceedings Citation Index by Clarivate, Web of Science.

Keywords: ESPERA 2020, conference, international, presentation.

The 2020 conference was organized with the support of several institutional partners from Romania and abroad: Association of Faculties of Economics from Romania; Romanian National Committee–World Energy Council; Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania; Research Network on Resources Economics and Bioeconomy Association; Gestionary Planificacion Research Group (GESPLAN), Spain; Institute of Agricultural Economics, Belgrade, Serbia; Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia; Faculty of Social and Cultural Service and Tourism, Stavropol State Agrarian University, Russia; Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, “St. Kliment Ohridski”, University Sofia, Bulgaria;

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Faculty of Hotel Management and Tourism, University of Kragujevac, Serbia;
West University of Timișoara, Romania.

The event has included a scientific program with a wide diversity of topics, bringing together researchers from all the institutes and centres of the National Institute for Economic Research (NIER) belonging to the Romanian Academy, and independent researchers from Romania and abroad.

The ESPERA-2020 Conference was divided into two main parts: the plenary session and 15 parallel workshops. The opening meeting included speeches and messages from: Acad. Bogdan C. Simionescu (Vice-President of Romanian Academy), Acad. Grigore Belostecinic (Full Member of Academy of Science of Moldova, Moldova, Rector, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova), Luminița Chivu (General Director, National Institute for Economic Research “Costin C. Kirițescu”, Romanian Academy). The plenary session included messages and presentations from: Jaime Gil Aluja (President, Royal Academy of Economic and Financial Sciences, Spain), John Komlos (Professor Emeritus, University of Munich): “The Need for a Paradigm Shift in Economics”, Valeriu IOAN-FRANC, (Corresponding Member of Romanian Academy), Andrei Marius Diamescu (Senior Researcher, National Institute for Economic Research “Costin C. Kirițescu”) “Pandemic. A lesson learned so far?!”.

All fifteen parallel sections were focused on the priority research objectives in the field of economic and social sciences according to the “Romanian Academy Research Strategy 2014-2020”, and each section had a number of presentations varying from 5 to 23:

- S1: “Romania’s sustainable economy and social development – Models, scenarios, evaluations” (23);
- S2: “Natural resources patrimony – Costs and benefits of its valorisation” (9);
- S3: “Knowledge, innovation, smart development and human capital”(17);
- S4: “Economic dynamics and structural changes for a competitive growth”(7);
- S5: “European integration and globalisation. New challenges” (17);
- S6: “Economic instability and stabilization policies”(6);
- S7: “Development and improvement of economic and social forecasting tools” (10);
- S8: “Food safety and security – challenges for agriculture economic development” (17);
- S9: “Assessment of economic, social and political experiences and thoughts” Round Table;
- S10: “Contributions to the New Encyclopaedia of Romania” Round Table;
- S11: “Quality of life and social policies evaluations” (13);
- S12: “Demographic facts and figures” (8);
- S13: “Mountain economy” (9);

- S14: “PhD and post PhD students debates” (5);
- S15: “Business ethics – economic strength or weakness in a global world” (20).

The conference featured a diverse agenda concerning economy, but also various social aspects, most of them related to social inclusion and impact of the pandemic.

The Research Institute for Quality of Life of the Romanian Academy hosted the interdisciplinary quality of life session. In this context, we would like to mention several presentations which have generated provocative discussions and useful suggestions: Daniel Gabriel Arpinte, Sebastian Țoc, Iulian Stănescu, Simona Maria Stănescu – “The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the social assistance system in Romania”; Simona Ilie – “The Two Worlds of Youth Employment in Romania: rural vs urban”; Luminița Ionescu – “The difficulties of mono-parental families and social services’ needs”; Olivera Jovanovic, Mihajlo Đukic, Jovan Zubovic – “Non-price determinants of demand for tobacco products in SEE countries; Monica Marin, Georgiana Blaj – “Digitally supportive schools in Romania: disparities and challenges faced in the context of COVID-19 pandemic”; Adina Mihăilescu – “A comparative analysis of income from fundamental research, education and health”; Gheorghita Nistor, Gabriela Neagu – “Factors influencing teachers’ attitudes towards school inclusion”; Dan Constantin Olteanu – “Changes in Households’ Economic Well-Being during Covid19 Pandemic”; Mariana Stanciu – “Evolutions of the global, regional and national food consumption patterns”; Simona Maria Stănescu, Iulian Stănescu – “Covid-19 Social Policy response in Romania: Outlook and Lessons from the Past”; Maria-Livia Ștefănescu – “Romanians’ opinions on the state’s functions”; Maria-Livia Ștefănescu, Ștefan Ștefănescu – “Applying resampling simulation technique in social sciences”; Dana-Alina Ungureanu – “Work-family balance – a psychosocial perspective”.

As a novelty, the 2020 edition of the Conference has been moved to the online-only format and all correspondence with the authors took place, through a dedicated platform, with direct access on the ESPERA Conference website. Also, the 2020 edition of the Conference has included an additional section “Business Ethics – Economic Strength or Weakness in a Global World”. More information about the conference is available on: <https://www.conferinte-ince.ro/>.