

# Introduction

## 1. News and timeliness of the theme

The welfare state was, is and will be an important topic in the context of the permanent economic, social, political or geopolitical changes. Now more than ever it is necessary to define this concept that passed over time through several stages of development, starting with theoretical approaches in early-twentieth century and reaching full maturity by the need to address more concrete ways applied to the realities of everyday life.

It was a real challenge to address this concept from two perspectives: the economic one, founded on the principles of economic organization of the state and the other sociological, with slight emphasis on the analysis of individual behavior specific to the beginning of the millennium. However, placing the two perspectives in a changing geopolitical environment and in a Europe of increasingly applied setting and achieving some tangible aims to create that challenge necessary and sufficient to try to re-define this new welfare state in the context of the recent economic crisis, or the Brexit consequences, the geopolitical processes and dynamics require strong measures to ensure basic systems necessary to ensure the welfare of European citizens. Moreover, given that Europe has a limited time to ensure standardization in operational dimensions of what we call a new state of the European welfare(necessary for the European Union) – (astatrebuietaiata) obliges to face major challenges in terms of global competitiveness.

Another argument for this approach is represented by the fact that today, more than ever, Europe and the world is on the brink of collapse resource, collapse which leads us to believe that it can be overcome only through a new approach more pragmatic, more adapted to this world of increased globalization.

Lastly, we wanted to propose another approach to European welfare paradigm: one in which the principles bioeconomy will have the gift to create other standards in assessing quality of life parameters. Today, European institutions are trying to respond to new requirements regarding issues of the education system, the health system that faces increasingly higher problems, the pension system which is becoming increasingly pressured by growing

demographic decline, and the social protection systems in permanent competition with the rules of economic governance. At the same time, we tried to define what it means in Romania the construction of this European welfare state, given that increasingly more Romanians fail to discern "the light at the end of the tunnel" which is dreamt for over 25 years.

## **2. Chapters Presentation**

The first chapter focuses on the methodologies used to define unified approach from the perspective of both the welfare state and social sciences specifically to finding methods, techniques and tools necessary for defining and tracking the development of this new European welfare state. In a more dynamic and digitized world, more must be done in order to try to overcome the traditional methodologies of analysis of the facts and socio-economic phenomena. However, one of the objectives of this first chapter was to try a methodological unification between representatives of the two social sciences, which not infrequently refused scientific dialogue. As a sociologist and psychologist I wanted to try to contribute to unifying the two scientific languages in defining the welfare state in multi-dimensional complexity. A new methodological approach of this new understandings of the European welfare state requires a different methodological approach where views are located not in contradiction, but rather in a perfect methodological convergence.

The second chapter aims to address a triple perspective of the becoming Europe: in terms of economic development and the foundation of its act of incorporation in terms of social development seen as a maturing mechanism of European integration, both complemented by the institutional perspective, one that managed to turn the European Union into what will follow it becomes: where respect for the principle of unity in diversity will be found in a new context, the European welfare. At the level of this chapter we tried to bring those clarifications on the issue of sovereignty of Member States of the European Union. I considered necessary these clarifications, all the more so as, in the Romanian society - in particular - but also in the Eastern European mind there are certain false beliefs about the so-called "colonization" of Eastern Europe by Western countries. According to these false beliefs, only those in Brussels or Strasbourg 'hold our fate, "we are unable to decide what is "the way of our development". I tried to bring all the arguments in favor of the sovereignty of each Member State - including Romania - sovereignty which by

the rules and regulations symmetrically formed on the principles of debate, proportionality and subsidiarity can lead us to regain our confidence in our ability to "stay at the same table on an equal footing with all other Member States. We have forgotten that one of those who promoted the ideals and principles of today's European Union was the great Romanian diplomat Nicolae Titulescu, and then, in the interwar period was able to demonstrate that in terms of sovereignty "fate is pretext of the weak and the powerful work." Today, this advice has become more necessary than ever. By arguments that I tried to bring, I had the intention to remember the lesson of dignity that today must be affirmed both in domestic politics, and in foreign markets. The analysis of the fundamental documents of the European Union - the European Charter Treaty European Union and especially the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - allow us to have a new approach in relation to the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, a way to an audacious approach, able to propose European agenda and our problems together through communication, to find those solutions capable by their reasonableness of our position as a pole of stability and growth in the Eastern part of Europe.

The third chapter, based on the principles of sovereignty, are trying to define a modern perspective and perfectly adapted to current realities needed to implement the Europe 2020 strategy, seen as a stage of development of European welfare. This is as a condition for the development of a new welfare state able to reduce economic disparities between East and West, between countries and to face increased competitiveness and financial difficulty. I also tried to realize a blueprint for how and where today Romania is positioned relative to other Member States in the context of the Europe 2020 agenda. Basically, this radiography wanted to prepare the fourth chapter, the fructification of Romania's strengths and how they can position themselves in Europe.

Chapter IV wanted to bring to the fore the strengths that Romania has Europe-wide, not just from the perspective that we are the seventh European country as size and potential, but rather the possibility of defining the opportunities we have for strengthen this position in the coming years.

At the level of this chapter we wanted to draw attention over an area addressed in conjunction with the welfare state: the bioeconomy. Tint (?) European welfare through the principles of bioeconomy, whose founder is the illustrious economist Nicholas Georgescu-

Roegen of Romanian origin. Although criticized in his time, or rather ignored by the followers of consumerism, Nicolas Georgescu-Roegen's work as a founder of the bio-economy is proving extremely relevant today. The force of his arguments, presented now more than half a century ago, became a cruel reality for all mankind - and specifically for Europe - and covered in fact the whole area of the objectives outlined in the Europe 2020 strategy. If the early twentieth century was marked by the work of Gregory Antipas who approached his work with a full seriousness and rigor for the problematic nature economy, after 50 years, Nicolas Georgescu-Roegen defined bioeconomy as a science, a branch of the economy centered on the issue of alternative energy resources, environmental pollution, food and last but not least - but perhaps most importantly - sustainable development of the European space. This is why today, 110 years after the birth of the illustrious economist of Romanian origin Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen we believe that we must pay tribute, more than due, by dedicating a chapter of the work and its contribution to the founding and development of the bioeconomy as a science.

This chapter comes to emphasizing the development priorities of the European welfare state through the priorities set by the bio-economy principles and how they position ourselves by these principles in the context of the Europe 2020 agenda.

In order to illustrate the manner in which the European welfare can be defined I have tried to present a brief case study, one of the many ways in which Europe of tomorrow can develop by using products available in a circular economy - able of meeting the challenges of development and information systems both in creating dashboards as operational tools as well as ways to improve the monitoring, analysis and decision making in real time on operational parameters of the EU.

The entire work was intended to be an opening of a very broad research area. Through the economic, social, political, geopolitical issues, especially those aimed at ensuring Europe's resources for the future generations, we hope to incite, to open a comprehensive process of debate in the scientific world in Romania.

We tried to give rigor to the whole endeavor by using mainly primary sources - data provided by official sources at European level - Eurostat and the Directorates of the European Commission. who have commissioned sociological and economic studies and analyzes referring to the subject. This does not mean that I have not paid due attention to the literature. Also, for more accurate analytical purposes, we used SPSS as a specialized program for achieving the proposed analysis. Its use was more than beneficial, especially in terms of defining the critical points in the next stages in terms of priorities and mechanisms by which the objectives imposed by the Europe 2020 agenda require.

**In addressing all these issues we all have a duty of honor: to continue through a highly rigorous scientific mechanism the carrying forward of the great works of Romanian researchers - with courage, dignity and strength of arguments.**

**This inter-disciplinary research, in conjunction with the opportunities offered by European cooperation among researchers, universities, research institutions or departments can lead to the definition of a smarter, greener, more inclusive Europe.**