

Abstract

The present habilitation thesis comprises three chapters, where Doctor Gina Fîntîneru's research and teaching activity is described. In chapter 1, the main academic and professional achievements that have marked the evolution of the candidate's career are summarized, respectively: her involvement in 22 projects, of which 10 projects implemented with international financing and participation, coordinated as director/ project manager; the publication of 56 articles, including 6 ISI-indexed ones.

Chapter 2 has the greatest importance within the thesis, presenting the candidate's most important scientific achievements, within the national and international context of the researched domain. The chapter is organized according to the main research topics approached by the candidate over time, respectively studies regarding: the competitiveness of agricultural products, the implementation and impact of the programmes and specific measures for rural development in Romania, and the intervention instruments used within the agricultural policies.

In the domain of agricultural products competitiveness, the main results refer to revealing the response mechanisms of the agricultural sector to the economic measures. For this, the Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM) was applied to different types of agricultural holdings and crops. Projecting three main markers allowed the analysis of the economic policy measures that were undertaken: index of nominal protection, index of real protection, and ratio of domestic resource costs. Regarding the evaluation of the competitiveness of food chains, the author contributes to the understanding of the concentration process of the agri-food market by examining the consolidation process and the structural change of the milk-processing industry in Romania. A number of indicators were used in order to establish an evaluation basis of the concentration and consolidation intensity of this market: market coverage, market value, number of market agents. Based on these, the concentration indicators of the market are estimated, considering the direct connection between the levels of market concentration, structure and performance, and the potential impact on the competitive environment.

Regarding the studies conducted into the implementation and evaluation of the impact of the programmes and measures for rural development, the author was a member of several

international research teams who aimed at: evaluating how successful the pre-accession programmes were in preparing for the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); measuring if the general assistance was in accordance with the subsidiarity, proportionality and additionality principles; analysing the relevance and efficacy of the implemented programmes, such as their efficiency and durability; evaluating the coherence in selecting the support measures at national level in order to benefit from the advantages of the various EU support actions, according to the specific situation of each country.

Another direction developed in this thesis is that of describing the various types of instruments used within the agricultural policies, agriculture being a sector where the governmental influence is exerted, both in the developing and in developed countries, while the objectives and instruments used evolve in time, adapting to the new requirements of the society. It was this research domain, exploited also at academic level, that the author gave her full attention, considering the complexity of the circumstances: ranging from a relative stability of the international agricultural markets to a situation of instability and volatility of the prices of the basic agricultural products, generated by the increase of food demand, climate changes, the out-of-balance market structure, changes in consumer behaviour, etc. In the publication entitled “Institutions, agricultural policy and financing instruments”, the author presents, following a homogeneous model (historical, definition, action and impact method), the main instruments used within CAP, ranked according to the important variables that are operated on. The author’s research studies have addressed the aspects regarding the distribution of direct payments, key instrument of the current CAP, among the EU member states.

Chapter 3 presents the candidate’s plan for career progress and development, structured in three directions: teaching activity; research activity; organizational and managerial activity.