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Anexa nr.6

SUMMARY OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

TITLE: The Social History of Industrialization in Post-War Romania: Local Contexts, Transnational Practices and Global Circumstances

Field of expertise: HISTORY

Author: Scientific Researcher III Mara Marginean, PhD

The habilitation thesis "Social History of Industrialization in Post-War Romania: Local Contexts, Transnational Practices and Global Circumstances" aims to deepen the scientific activity carried out after the defense of the doctoral thesis "The Urbanization Process in the Industrial Centers of Hunedoara and Călan, 1945-1968" on 18. October 2013 at the School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy, "Institute of History "George Barițiu" (the doctoral degree was confirmed by the Decree of the Minister of National Education no. 165 of April 7, 2014). Building on the experience gained during my doctoral studies in researching social change in industrial communities in the decades following the Second World War, over the last ten years I have deepened my expertise in the social history of industrialization, paying particular attention to the history of labor relations, living standards and territorial development, as well as to the multiple ways in which local realities are embedded in transnational and global social and economic dynamics.

The habilitation thesis shows that although my academic work since 2014 has in many respects shown a number of thematic continuities with the period of my doctoral studies, I have succeeded in developing several new research directions in recent years. A first direction aims at deepening the analysis of consumption, lifestyles in (non-)industrial Romanian cities and the supply networks for food and essential goods in the immediate post-war decades. A second direction aimed at the impact of generational change on labor policies and territorial development, in particular the strategies by which the communist regime attempted to rationalize the activity of industrial enterprises in the 1960s and 1970s by revising the models and practices of labor management. In this respect, my research looked at various collaborations with the International Labor Organization, the processes of social re-hierarchization, facets of inclusion and marginalization inherent to industrialization, and the role of social sciences in mapping these changes in the labor regime. More recently, I have also been studying food and nutrition policies in the post-World War II period, including aspects related to the cross-border transfer of knowledge and technologies in the field of soil science and plant and seed varieties, as well as the relations between the decision-makers of the socialist state and the medical and agronomic experts in the framework of the Bucharest authorities' efforts to reduce development gaps between Romania and other more economically advanced states. In this way, I have become



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increasingly interested in problematizing the social history of industrialization in the 20th century in terms of continuities and ruptures between the interwar period and the socialist period. This kind of intellectual path was a consequence of the diversification of qualitative and quantitative research methods, the appropriation of key principles from global, transnational and comparative history, but also the development of an intellectual interest in the question of the development and ideologies of modernization after 1945.

The habilitation thesis is divided into three different parts. The first part explains the most important aspects of my scientific activity. It begins with a presentation of some of the most important arguments put forward in the PhD dissertation. This section allows me to focus the discussion on the three main research directions of the last decade, highlighting both the professional context in which they emerged and the main scientific achievements. The first part of the thesis also contains a detailed description of the teaching and other professional roles I have undertaken over the years. Thus, I have outlined the conditions that allowed me to gain a solid experience in research and teaching, project management, team coordination, project writing, and fundraising - essential skills for the later development of a research career and the coordination of doctoral projects. This approach provided a solid foundation for the second part of the thesis, which is traditionally reserved for describing the main research directions undertaken since the public defense of the PhD dissertation. Here I have included details of the methods used, the theoretical and conceptual novelty of the research conducted to date and the way in which they enter into conversation with scholarly productions of the international mainstream. In this sense, two important lines of research have been described in detail. The first concerns the question of nutrition in the immediate post-war period. The second concerns a series of social transformations that emerged against the backdrop of changes in the industrial labor regime in the late socialist period. This section has outlined a solid framework for the development of a career plan, which is the subject of the third part of this habilitation thesis.

My potential to reach a position of professional maturity is confirmed by my achievements over the past decade. The project of my doctoral thesis was particularly complex. The study of the urbanization process in Romania after the Second World War required extensive archival work, excellent synthesis skills and a solid familiarity with a vast interdisciplinary secondary literature. I published my first monograph with the highest rated history publisher in Romania. The academic community awarded my book *Ferestre spre farnalul roșu: Urbanism și cotidian în Hunedoara și Călan, 1945-1968* (Iași: Polirom, 2015), two national prizes and shortlisted it for three others. I have managed to achieve an excellent publication record. With the publication of over fifty studies and articles in Romanian and international academic journals or in edited volumes of renowned national and international publishers, two self-authored books and the coordination of three other volumes, I have consolidated my professional identity as a 20th century historian specializing in the social and economic history of industrialization, urban history and the study of the production and transnational transfer of expertise on development during the Cold War. By participating in over sixty international conferences organized by universities, advanced research institutes, and



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prestigious professional associations in Europe and North America, I have promoted my research to a wide audience, expanded my professional network for future collaborations, and constantly benefited from feedback from my colleagues on the scholarly impact and relevance of my research activity in the broader context of social history priorities at the international level.

After 2014, I was involved in the successful implementation of 13 research projects, either as a project leader (PD and TE by UEFISCDI, NEC, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Lviv, Geneva, etc.) or as a research expert (Emerald, Prekwork) following national or international competitions. This activity played a key role in improving transferable skills such as project management, communication, dissemination of research results, organization of events and grant proposal writing, which provided a solid basis not only for future applications to national and international funding programs, but also for the coordination of doctoral projects in the field of 20th century social history. In recent years, I have also gained teaching experience with undergraduate and graduate students from Canada and Romania. In addition, I have extensive knowledge in communicating research results to the general public through public lectures, participation in conferences, and involvement in the work of non-governmental organizations dealing with the valorization of (i)material heritage and the development of cultural intervention projects in former industrial cities (see for example the project "Quarter" by Dash Film “about collective housing from the 1950s in Bucharest or the Antromedia project “Patrimoniul ABC- Cu antropologia la pas prin Bălan”).



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