

Title: Principles of Economic Sociology Applied into the Research of International Migration, Entrepreneurship' and Rural Development

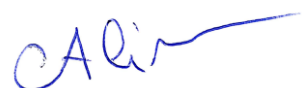
Scientific domain of Habilitation: SOCIOLOGY

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Abstract

This habilitation thesis provides a general overview of the candidate's professional achievements based on his research and teaching activities and lays out his future career development plans. The thesis has two main components, each of which has a series of sections focused on specific topics.

The thesis's first part has three sections as follows. The first section presents the candidate's inputs within various significant research projects focused on international migration, economic sociology and social change processes. This section provides a detailed overview of each project's important contributions including conceptual frameworks, methodological tools and empirical results. The candidate's professional trajectory benefited from how most of these projects involved the intersection of multiple research niches (e.g. sociology, economy and human geography) and employed mixed-methods approaches (i.e. mostly social surveys combined with qualitative fieldwork). His participation in multiple international consortia's projects provided an excellent environment in which to improve his research skills and facilitated his access to high quality social data – including the Seventh Framework Programme and Horizon 2020 research. This thesis thus provides evidence of the author's capacity to conduct research in various institutional frameworks and collaborate with prominent national and international scholars. The second section presents a synthesis of the candidate's publications and highlights each study's contribution to the existing knowledge in specific research areas. The author's journal articles, books and chapters in collective volumes fall within three main topics: (1) international migration, (2) entrepreneurship, (3) rural sociology and regional studies. His contributions to the literature on international migration are primarily linked to empirical research on Romanian migrants in destinations (e.g. Croitoru 2013a; 2014; 2016), those who return to the country of origin after time spent abroad (e.g. Croitoru and Vlase 2022; Croitoru 2018a; 2019c; 2019a; 2020a; 2021; Vlase and



Croitoru 2019) and their attitudes towards public policies designed to stimulate return migration (Serban and Croitoru 2018; Croitoru 2021). In general, the candidate's migration studies have covered topics linked to migrants' integration into destinations and reintegration into the country of origin, employment trajectories and propensity towards entrepreneurship and/or self-employment. The author's input regarding entrepreneurship research is rooted in his interest in Joseph Schumpeter's academic legacy, which includes theoretical papers (e.g. Croitoru 2011; 2012; 2013b; 2017b) and empirical analysis of migrants' entrepreneurship (e.g. Croitoru 2016; 2019a; 2019b; 2020a). The candidate has also published multiple papers on rural sociology and regional studies centred around land reform and administrative restructuring in Romania (Mihalache and Croitoru 2011; 2014; 2015), rural employment and entrepreneurship (Mihalache and Croitoru 2011; Croitoru and Mihalache 2018), rural migration (Croitoru 2017a), and regional disparities (Croitoru 2018b). The candidate has further published articles which contributed to the existent sociological knowledge about consumer preferences (Croitoru 2011; Croitoru, Rusu and Rusu 2015). In addition, the author's constant participation in research projects and published papers have facilitated his involvement in international conferences and academic workshops, as well as his presence on these events' scientific/organising committees. Last but not least, the thesis presents the candidate's teaching activities at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. This segment contains details about courses, seminars, and research laboratories, as well as supervisions of bachelor's or master's dissertations.

This habilitation thesis's second component focuses on the author's future career development. His plans are linked to research proposals in areas where he has already gained experience and consistent achievements (e.g. international migration, entrepreneurship and rural studies). In addition, details are given about new professional paths related to his teaching activities at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, namely, improvements of existing syllabi and teaching methods, as well as new proposed courses in his areas of expertise. Concurrently, the candidate plans to assume a more active role in consolidating the institutional infrastructure and professional associations connected to sociology.