

ABSTRACT Of the

HABILITATION THESIS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO ECONOMIC HISTORY OF TRANSYLVANIA, A MULTI-ETHNIC REGION IN ROMANIA, EAST-CENTRAL-EUROPE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY Elaborated by Lecturer ATTILA GÁBOR HUNYADI, PhD

The purpose of present thesis is to advocate the necessity of interdisciplinary and comparative approach in the future study of Transylvanian economic history. The proposed thesis contains 172 pages and it is structured in 5 chapters and bibliographic references: an introduction, 3 chapters and a short concluding text.

The *Introduction* is followed by a second chapter called *Carrier Plan, Achievements and Development perspectives*. In this part of the habilitation thesis as the undersigned lecturer I frame my scholarly achievements and present some of my main findings resulted from my research activity between 2006 and 2014, after I finished my PhD. I have to emphasise the majority of scientific results and the future research plan included in the chapter is centered on the topic of economic history.

This Habilitation thesis is equally a plea of the importance of economic history and a call for applying interdisciplinary research through the adoption and adaptation of methods taken from the sociology of economics, political science and the study of nationalism, nation-building processes, State- building, whereas both Transylvania and throughout Central and Eastern Europe in the period studied was a multi-ethnic mezzo-region located on the border and under the influence, even dominance of the great powers.

This comprehensive approach, interdisciplinary is extremely useful for restoring economic structures and cultural and social networks, to critically understand the process of nation-building or the character of the "nation-affirmed" (the term used by the historian Keith Hitchins, referring to Dr. I. Ratiu), for the description of the modernization process, not only on cultural and literary field, but especially on the economic field, something that rarely has been revealed in traditional history-writing.

In chapter three we present the development of financial - econom- cooperative networks in Transylvania before the First World War, the chapter ending with conclusions on this period.

In chapter four we continue the presentation of financial - economic development of cooperative networks in the interwar period still characterized by specific national affiliations in the Kingdom of Romania , the chapter ending with a review on the interwar period.

In chapter five, we step outside Romania, to have an international outlook towards the Transylvanian elites, organizations and the Transylvanian manifold public opinion, in the direction of international and the European organizations, which were part of a modern universal network (most often under the umbrella or around the League of Nations or adhering to the pan-European movement) and were based on universal principles of international law, which were often self-organized civil networks, initiated not by governments or classical diplomacy , but starters from below or from the middle, from the civil society, economic and financial influent circles. They "were working in a pacifist way" hoping to avoid further wars or promoted the collaborations of regions, states of the world or of Europe not primarily on diplomatic - intergovernmental field. Being more pragmatic, these organizations and press organiss, elites described in Chapter 5, we trying to promote transnational solidarity among civic organizations or economic , cultural circles, through projects more functional, tangible even for ordinary people and companies, or at least reaching not necessarily political elites, but also cultural, academic , economic people, which could influence in a positive way the public opinion, the education, the philosophy and even the economic thinking or phenomena in order to promote international and transnational cooperation.

The findings emphasize the importance of economic history methods adapted from sociology and economics studies of nationalism and nation -building. Habilitation thesis contains several reproductions of primary sources used (newspaper articles , maps , statistics, unpublished documents of international organizations and yet unseen by historians) inserted at the end of the corresponding chapters. I tried also shaping visual schemes that can help apprehension interdisciplinary methodology addressed.

The bibliography is made and properly grouped in thematic and habilitation thesis chapters .Anexes, maps, statistics, diplomatic archival documents are included between the chapters to illustrate the historical sources used during the research.