

## Habilitation thesis

# COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALISATION

### Abstract

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The thesis is structured, in agreement with existing standards, in two distinct sections, the first one dealing with scientific and professional achievements with the second one dealing with professional progress and career development. Each section is centred then upon significant scientific contribution (A) and upon teaching and research and development respectively (B).

The first section starts with a chapter on scientific and professional achievements from before and during the doctoral study period and whose purpose is to sketch the theoretical and empirical roots of subsequent research and development undertakings.

The key concept of the chapter is that of the social fact which is then being redefined in cybernetic, community matrix and local development perspectives. Within this chapter are also mentioned various methodological origins subsequently developed into somewhat original methodologies like the *community matrix methodology* and the *(sociological inquiry) results restitution methodology*.

The main scientific achievements of this period laid the foundation for future research. Thus the redefinition of the social fact led to an opening towards dimensions of local governance in tight connection to the dimensions of community matrix. The theory and the methodology of community matrix in turn have been linked to our studies on territorial intelligence and on affected community position groupings globalisation impact vectors. The (sociological inquiry) results restitution methodology has at one point also been viewed as a bridge between pure and applied sociology, due to its focus on intervention through sociological induction of participation to governance.

The second chapter reviews a series of scientific contributions to the understanding of the connections between community and local governance, revealing in particular some socio-psychological roadblocks to good governance in rural space.

Territorial intelligence, an important concept in some European projects, is the nucleus of a separate, but related chapter and is seen by us as being in strict relationship to the community solidarity (matrix) on one hand and to the demands of intelligent governance on the other.

The chapter on community and globalisation presents a series of scientific contributions which rest upon a long-term research study on the Rosia Montana case. The central concept used is that of *glocalisation*, a specific concept meant to synthesise the interference between

the global space and local one at a particular point in time. Accordingly, globalisation and localisation - as globalisation vectors' strategies - try to explain the windings of a vast mining project like the one of Rosia Montana Gold Corporation.

The topical substance of our previous theoretical and methodological contributions was a determinant factor in choosing the title of our thesis, which contains references to community, society and globalisation.

Along the years our research and reflection undertakings - like the one dedicated to the theory and methodology of community matrix - have been rooted in works of social psychology. Deep examination of the subject and the associated pedagogical demands led us to draft a theory and a methodology of group matrix. This is the object of the fifth chapter of the thesis.

A quick survey of the scientific contributions section ought to reveal four aspects that might help clarify in our view some of our approaches: 1) a research concentration on the micro-social environment with the community perspective taking a privileged position in front of the more general social issues, 2) a certain bias in favour of the qualitative rather than quantitative research, 3) a preponderance of exploratory research over a prolonged timeframe, starting from *research hypotheses* and leading to *result hypotheses*, deferring the ownership of a final thesis, and 4) the early abandonment of some research lines and frequent changes towards new directions.

In parallel to the scientific work described by each chapter we have been involved into teaching and research activities that resulted in several new courses added to the educational programs and in research and development project contributions as project contributor and/or project coordinator.

The two layers, that of significant scientific and that of educational and research work respectively are described also in the second part of the thesis, the section dedicated to the professional evolution and career development plans. The main lines of research will be the improvement of the relationship between results restitution and the participative research-action and the grounding of the inter-community cooperation. The second line has a particular practical use in the context of Romania's administrative re-organisation project to begin under European and global administrative auspices.