

## ABSTRACT

The present thesis represents a synthesis of the author's main research activity in the last 9 years. After getting the PhD. degree, in 2007, I have focused on two main research directions:

a. ***Program Evaluation Methodology***. This direction is connected to the evaluation methods on the one hand and research methods and statistics used in program evaluation on the other hand. It is also connected to the main models used on a large scale or proposed and tested by the author.

b. ***Program Evaluation in Public Administration System in Romania***. This direction is the newest in my research activity and it followed the previous two as a "natural consequence". This direction is reflected in more than half of the research papers published in the last years. They focused on two main sub-directions covering both evaluation culture and capacity in public administration system. After some important findings concerning the first direction, the need to identify the actual use of program evaluation methods in Romanian Public Administration became mandatory. Although I have already published few papers on this direction, I consider it is just the beginning of this research direction, as it requires intense cooperation with practitioners in the public field.

In this thesis, I present briefly, the state of the art in the up-mentioned directions at global and national level, as well as, my achievements reflected in the published papers and the main career development directions.

The research was closely related with teaching from my early career, both because of the specific subjects taught, and because of the value I personally give to research. My research work has three main deliverables: research projects, conferences and publications. In the past 9 years, I have participated in 10 research projects.

The main objective of the research career development relates to an intensification of collaboration with foreign partners and an international approach to research. In this regard I propose development projects already undertaken with partners at Michigan State University and with the University of Delaware. The project started in cooperation with Michigan State University refers to a research meant to discover what gives value to housing (Hedonic Analysis). The information collected helps us to understand exactly what people appreciate about their homes and neighborhoods and will be used to develop new residential areas or neighborhoods. Together with partners from the University of Delaware we developed a project

identifying the main problems existing at administrative level in Cluj community and to propose feasible solutions based on benchmarking analysis.