

**GUEST INTERVIEW:  
PROFESSOR NICOLAE ISTUDOR, RECTOR OF THE BUCHAREST  
UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES: “SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS A  
NECESSITY FOR ROMANIA, AND ITS RESULTS MUST HAVE PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION”**

We recently had the great opportunity and pleasure to have as a guest of honour at the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Economics - University of Oradea, Professor Nicolae ISTUDOR, the recently elected Rector of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, and secretary-general of the Romanian National Council for the Attestation of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU). Present at the University of Oradea as member of the jury for a doctoral thesis in Economics, he was kind enough to give us a brief interview, exclusively for the inaugural number of the *Oradea Journal of Business and Economics*.

*Oradea Journal of Business and Economics (OJBE): Dear Professor, looking retrospectively at these 25 years of transformations in the Romanian academic system, what do you recommend to young academics and researchers in the field of economics (and not only)?*

Professor Nicolae ISTUDOR (N.I.): Indeed, higher education and scientific research in the economic field have seen profound changes during the past 25 years. Romanian economic research became deeper, more serious, and modern. As a specific recommendation for young researchers: to focus more on applied research through a real partnership with business environment.

**RESEARCH TOPIC: TO CHOOSE OR TO BE CHOSEN**

*OJBE: How can topics with special significance be selected?*

N.I.: The relevance of the research topics addressed is indeed a very important issue. Research, especially if state funded, must address key economic issues of Romania, and must not be just a hobby research, with no relevance and effects on major economic problems. Topics with a significant meaning and relevance for research should therefore be chosen in consultation with the potential beneficiaries of the research results. Economic organizations, private and public, should be consulted in selecting research topics, as I said - especially if they are state funded.

*OJBE: How to address such research subjects?*

N.I.: Research topics which are meaningful, relevant, applicable, of a real economic importance, can be addressed especially through joint research teams (academics, researchers, representatives of economic and social environment).

*OJBE: Is there a real economic integration of Romanian research results in the international research flow?*

N.I.: Here we are vulnerable. Romanian research results are insufficiently integrated at this time in the world flow. Therefore, it is imperative to be concerned about a much greater integration of our results within the European ones (see Europe 2020 and other programs).

*OJBE: How to reconcile teamwork with individual effort and motivation? Do economic sciences favour the "lone wolf" or teamwork?*

N.I.: It goes without saying that major scientific research, both credible and effective, which would integrate experiences and generate solutions, can only be achieved by teams, in multi- and interdisciplinary teams.

*OJBE: What does the reform of the academic and research economic system lack in Romania today?*

N.I.: Reform – an everlasting topic! Continuity, stability and honesty are the major deficiencies, as well as the lack of cooperation between universities and research institutes and units.

*OJBE: How important is the lack of funding in higher education?*

N.I.: Quality costs, undoubtedly, and the lack of funding in higher education is decisive! There can be no performance without funding, just as one cannot become competitive without adequate funding. For example, during this academic year (2015/2016) the funding per student in the field of economics is of 3009 lei / equivalent student, but the real cost is approximately 3600 lei / equivalent student. Under these circumstances, scientific research must have a greater contribution to creating revenue for universities.

## **RESEARCH: TO BE OR NOT TO BE ... IN ROMANIA**

*OJBE: An academic or scientific career in Romania, compared to one abroad? Do you have any advice for those (really) experiencing this dilemma?*

N.I.: A scientific career is difficult to build, regardless of country. Therefore, I believe that valuable researchers can attract foreign (not only European) funds and continue their research in Romania. In a country such as Romania, the need for research (particularly applied research) is greater than in other European states, and subsequently I consider that our country may represent a potential interest for researchers.

*OJBE: Do you think that (Romanian) researchers who are already well recognized in universities or research institutes abroad, will eventually return to Romania (as researchers, academics etc.)?*

N.I.: Yes. Certainly, Romania needs their experience, yet I don't consider that only they can provide a competitive research in Romania

## **ABOUT THE ACADEMIC ECONOMIC SCHOOL IN ORADEA**

*OJBE: How do you see the role of new scientific journals, such as OJBE, in the efforts to stimulate the research and visibility of academics, young researchers and Ph.D. students,*

*in order to provide a framework for dialogue between scientists all over the world and in Romania?*

N.I.: Any effort to promote authentic, relevant and qualitative scientific research is praiseworthy and deserves to be encouraged. New scientific journals are needed, which should be professionally managed by young researchers and by editorial boards composed of valuable people, both Romanian and international. In addition, young researchers should be promoted and also encouraged to publish. In this context, we especially appreciate that, at the University of Oradea, at least in the field of Economics, the Doctoral School has a high quality, both due to the number of articles published by doctoral students prior to their Ph.D. thesis presentation, and to the serious and competent academic staff. Ph.D. students publish a lot, which is good both in terms of transparency and research visibility. A lot is said about plagiarism, but if doctoral students publish their research, then the discussion about plagiarism is out of question.

*OJBE: As a conclusion?*

N.I.: I would like to conclude by asserting once again that scientific research is a necessity for Romania, and its results must have a practical applicability. Only then could our economy become competitive at a European level and beyond!