

EDITORIAL

The Place of Researchers and the Recognition They Enjoy (or Not) in the Romanian Society

The main problem of Romanian researchers is the status they have in society. It's not necessarily about the level of their earnings or the place they occupy in the social hierarchy, it's about the confidence that the results of their work enjoy, and this tells us something about them and about Romanian society at the same time.



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The European Union claims to provide funding for projects, but on one condition: projects must be good! And, you see, that's it,

Romanian projects are not very good, so the research money coming back to Romania is kind of 'brittle'. A good policy, based on the formula: "Give me money to tell you if you're good!" There are European research projects. These are more rare, but more valuable, and involve investments. With a lot of good chances, and possibly luck, helped by friends in Brussels, one can get such a project (can get stuck with such a project), to implement it in Romania. It is not funded by European money, as it is said, it is financed by the Romanian Government; at the end of work, Brussels comes and makes 'acceptance inspection'; if the work complies with the eligible costs of the project, maybe settlement takes place, but usually it does not comply, it misses something, and in this case settlement takes place only in part, or it does not take place at all.

Scientific research aims to achieve high-quality scientific results; if they are numerous, the better. Organically and naturally, by the nature of their profession, researchers feel the need to publish their results, communicate them in the framework of conferences, debate upon them in workshops, symposia, etc. Well, the management of scientific research does not appreciate the quality, but the number, the amount: how many published papers a researcher has, how many conferences he/she has attended, where, with whom, why ... All this, in the name of an aberrant building of a good image of Romania in the world, referring to an EU directive, allegedly. Obviously, such quantitative criteria can fundamentally distort scientific activity.

The policy of scientific research in Romania ensures that the researcher has a 'pretty good bread on the table', a car, a trip abroad, a home credit, in short, something to shut him/her up, "not to have conflicts". The Romanian scientist should be a little bourgeois, caring about anything but science. Which is not true, but our man is forced to 'swallow' and consent. As a result, the decision-maker asks: "So, why increase the research budget in Romania? To feed some people who have low perspectives?"

Under these circumstances, in which the Romanian society places the researcher under the level of politicians, journalists and priests in the hierarchy of those who strive for the truth, their migration to communities where they enjoy credibility and appreciation is part of a natural search for normality, and we should not be surprised by it.