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# ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE IN ROMANIA –AN ECONOMIC AND MEDICAL CHALLENGE -

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**Abstract**

*The use of antibiotics, without regard to the importance of first obtaining a prescription, is one of the current challenges, both in health and economic terms. At the global level, resistance to different classes of antibiotics is developing at an alarming rate, and the effects over time are worrying. Romania is one of the European countries facing this problem at the macro level, with the latest statistical data exposing this alarming situation. The lack of basic knowledge of the population regarding the purchase of medication and the habit of administering treatment without the clinician's advice make this situation difficult to improve.*

*This article discusses the importance of adequate education in antibiotic use, proposing concrete measures to improve the current situation. This study is based on results obtained by the author in previous research on antibiotic resistance in children diagnosed with unitary tract infection in the Braşov area. Thus, the need to apply the proposed solutions is based on the reality found in hospitals.*

**Keywords:** *urinary tract infections, UTI, antibiotic use, antibiotics, resistance to antibiotics.*
**JEL:** *I12.*

## Introduction

According to the U.S. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, antibiotic (AB) resistance causes approximately 2 million infections in the USA and 23,000 deaths resulting in a direct cost of $ 20 billion, and an extra cost of $ 35 billion in productivity decline. Figures for Europe show that 25,000 deaths per year have this cause, with a total cost of 1.5 billion Euros, including treatment and costs associated with the lack of productivity at work. In the CDDEP report for 2015, Romania is not ranked as a country investing in campaigns for optimal use of antibiotics. However, statistics place it on the penultimate spot on the consumption of this type of medication (CDDEP, 2015). The main two European countries that allocate considerable budget expenses for these

campaigns are France ($ 22,500,000 in 2002-2004) and Spain (€ 11,500,000 in 2006-2007).

In view of these considerations, we considered necessary to carry out an analysis on the measures that can be taken at a national level in order to improve the situation in regards to the consumption of antibiotics. Based on the literature and the conclusions of the author's study at the Children's Hospital in Braşov, a series of guidelines could be drawn up by local authorities in each county to educate and raise awareness of the importance of observing medication guidelines.

**Stage of Knowledge**

Infection is defined by the Merriam Webster online medical dictionary (2015) as the sum of manifestations produced by the settling of an infectious agent in a susceptible host organism. The hospital environment is well suited for infectious agents, and antibiotic resistant strains have the evolutionary advantage. According to WHO, out of all infections, those acquired during hospitalization which were not present before entering such an environment are called nosocomial infections (Ducel et al., 2002).

Some of the most common infections in pediatric practice are urinary tract infections (UTI), and they are caused almost entirely by bacteria coming from the digestive tract - there are also adenoviruses that can cause UTI, although this type of infection is rarely encountered in practice (Kliegman, 2011). UTIs acquired in the community are caused by Escherichia coli in 70% to 90% of cases - the uropathogen strains are capable of causing UTI, also. Cases of recurrent urinary tract infections in several family members indicate the presence of genetically transmitted defects by affecting the proteins that confer urinary epithelia innate resistance to bacterial colonization. According to the European Guidelines for Pediatric Urology, the diagnosis of urinary tract infections is based on the patient’s history, clinical signs and symptoms, examination, urine samples followed by urine analysis and cultures. Further blood tests and additional investigations such as ultrasonography (Jadresic, 2014) may also be necessary.

In parallel with the antibiotic treatment, bacterial cells develop mechanisms to combat AB over time. To sum up microbial resistance, it can be defined as the insensitivity of a pathogenic microorganism to a chemotherapeutic agent (medication/drug). Resistance may be natural - genetically determined and characteristic to species outside the spectrum of action of an antibiotic and it is the result of genetic changes and selection processes induced by antibiotic therapy (Tullus, 2011). Major factors that promote the emergence of resistance to antibiotic therapy are natural evolution, incorrect therapeutic practices and to a lesser extent the excessive use of antibiotics in the food industry - implemented in order to increase productivity.

Recent studies have shown the presence of numerous multi-resistant bacteria in slaughtered animals. A study in Germany showed the presence of E. coli ESBL (Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase) multi-resistant strains in the intestines of 90% of the

slaughtered animals but in very low concentrations (0.07%), living alongside with antibiotic-sensitive strains (Fulga, 2006).

In the study Chaves BD et al., conducted in Costa Rica, samples from slaughtered animals in 3 slaughterhouses - 2 of which were destined for export to destinations including Europe, were analysed. The results showed increased prevalence of E. coli strains producing Shiga-like toxin in all slaughterhouses (a highly virulent strain), with a higher incidence in the warm season (Reich et al., 2016).

When dealing with infections, prophylaxis (or the prevention of infections) is indicated primarily for patients with previous episodes, but proper hygiene practices and measures taken to educate the caregivers are beneficial for the entire population. Prophylaxis in UTI can be accomplished with simple means such as cranberry juice or probiotics, with favourable results in patients predisposed to recurrent infections (ex. patients with diseases of the urinary tract due to obstruction). Although initially it was thought that cranberry juice works by lowering urinary pH, further studies have shown that protective action is due to inhibition of adhesion of bacteria to urinary epithelia (Chavez et al., 2015).

The antibiotic treatment in most cases of acute and symptomatic UTIs is effective before receiving antibiotic analysis results, meaning empirical treatment with antibiotics is a must, targeting the bacteria most likely to trigger the infection. The most common antibiotics used in empirical treatment of UTIs are third-generation Cephalosporins and the association of Ampicillin with Gentamicin (Kontiokari, 2005). In most cases, the short duration of AB treatment is enough to hinder the emergence of resistance.

Infection with E. coli is a particularly important issue, debated in recent years in different contexts. E. coli infections are characterized by severity, especially in young children, due to the immaturity of the urinary system. Possible sources of contamination with E. coli bacteria are multiple: drinking water, food, poor hygiene, cross-contamination when preparing food and often one cannot identify when the infection was contacted. It may be wrong food preparation practices (ex. the meat was not cooked at a temperature of at least 70 °C), the use of contaminated food products (ex. raw milk), the purchase of food from unauthorized places that do not comply with state regulations, improper storage, poor hygiene (ex. inadequate hand washing or not washing hands after changing diapers) or by ignoring good hygiene rules in the kitchen - ex. improper cleaning of cooking utensils after contact with raw food (Garbam & Florescu, 2015).

Children are particularly vulnerable to the spread of infections with bacteria of digestive origin, such as E. coli to other systems – as the urinary system - because they are in the process of acquiring basic knowledge of sanitation standards, with younger children being the most susceptible (Bouissou et al., 2008).

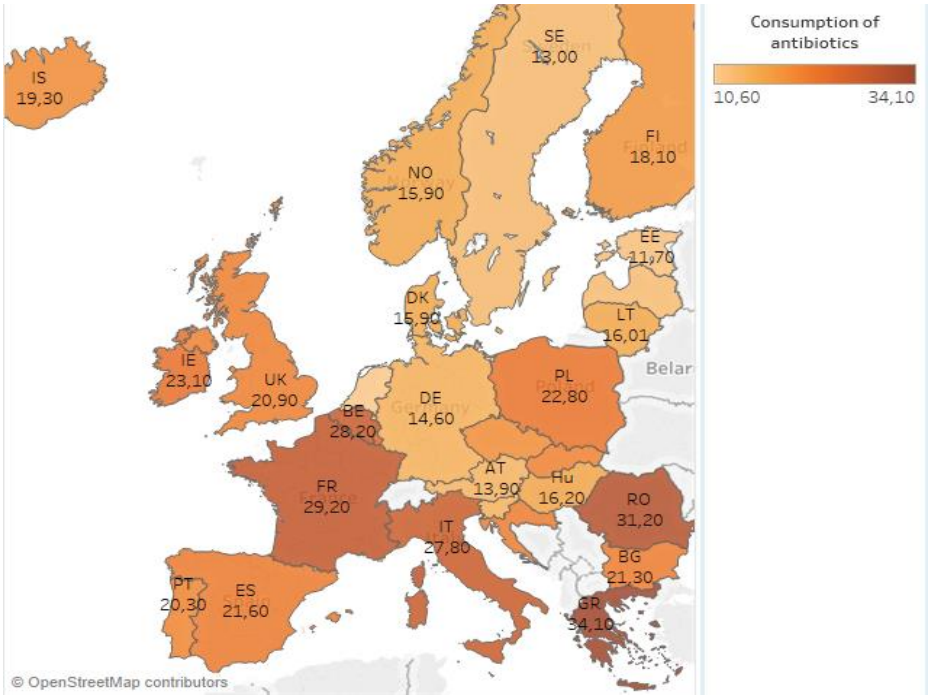
In light of these aspects, we considered it appropriate to conduct a study on this topic. This article aims to outline the rates of antibiotic resistance at the national level and it presents the main measures that can be taken in the near future in order to make progress on the issue.

**Methodology**

Romania is a country with some of the lowest resistance rates in the European Union. However, according to data provided by the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, it ranks second at antibiotic consumption, with a percentage of 31.2%, being surpassed by Greece with 34.1% (Fig. 1), which places our country in a worrying situation and raises an alarm signal about health practices.

This ranking is known by the competent authorities, with programs being launched at the national level. The National Program for the Supervision and Control of Nosocomial Infections and The Monitoring of the Use of Antibiotics and Antibiotic Resistance was started in 2015 by the Ministry of Health. Also, a national information program called "No to the random use of antibiotics" was launched to inform patients about the dangers of developing resistance to these drugs. It includes information about who can prescribe AB treatment and under what conditions (www.ms.ro).

**Image Nr. 1 The European map of antibiotic use (%)**




*Source: made by the author, based on http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/eaad/antibiotics-news/Documents/antimicrobial-consumption-ESAC-Net-summary-2015.pdf in the Public Tableau program.*

However, these measures are not fully effective. The message does not appear everywhere it is needed and it is not accessible to vulnerable groups. Some parents do not have an average education level to understand the information they receive, and some of them live with a high degree of illiteracy, so they can not read the posters. Although promoted in the online environment on the Ministry of Health website, these campaigns are hard to access the target audiences who are mostly interested in using social platforms.

This analysis is based on the results obtained by the author in a retrospective quantitative study at the Braşov Hospital for Children. The topic includes the development of antibiotic resistance in children with UTI, based on data taken from patients during the time period 2010-2014. The items used in the research focused on the structure and description of the target group (sex, age, background, allergy to medication, number of days of hospitalization, diagnosis, comorbidities, personal history, antibiotics administered prior to admission) along with aspects related to the UTI diagnosis and antibiotic resistance (urinary analysis positive for E. coli and antibiotic resistance analysis, urinary sediment analysis, leukocyte count, inflammatory markers, urea, creatinine, uric acid, Astrup blood gas analysis). The information was obtained from the archives at the Braşov Hospital for Children and the hospital's Microbiology Laboratory, with a total of 349 subjects.

The results showed that the resistance to the AB currently used in the treatment of UTI in children was higher to that found in literature and recent studies. The average duration of admission was 6 days, with most patients receiving antibiotic treatment. Most patients received Ceftriaxone, a third generation Cephalosporin, and it was also the preferred antibiotic for continuing the treatment.

**Comments**

Taking into account the present context and the significant economic importance of antibiotic resistance for the Romanian population, we have conceived a number of steps aimed at improving the situation at the national level. Since UTI cases can be diminished through information and appropriate health education, the author's suggestions in this regard are as follows:

- To create an informative poster with the measures families must take in order to avoid contamination. The information must be accurate, clear, written with easy to navigate and large fonts and presented in a simplified form. The text should alternate with suggestive images, given that the degree of illiteracy in rural areas is high. The language must be simple, easy to understand for those who lack education, also. The color palette must take into account marketing principles and reader's concerns (ex. Color-blind)
- To provide counseling tailored to the mother's knowledge and intellectual level starting in the maternity ward. Thus, once she is home with the infant, she will know what to do in order to avoid infection.
- To implement informative campaigns in schools and kindergartens during health education class and distribute leaflets and informative posters in places such as toilets, classrooms, cafeterias.
- To start campaigns on media channels targeting economic agents. This way, they will raise awareness and be reminded of their responsibility to comply with the rules imposed by the authorities.
- To use social platforms and youtube channels as information vectors.

- Free counseling service offered by the authorities to economic agents, public catering establishments and healthcare establishments to ease compliance with the rules and avoid possible contamination. Representatives of these units will be able to address the authorities on their own initiative in order to receive the necessary information and support without being pressured by sanctions at this stage.

Regarding the adverse effects of the use of AB without prescription, it is also necessary to adequately educate adults to get them to abandon the practice of procuring ABs without written recommendation from the doctor. Increasing antibiotic resistance at an early age narrows the treatment regimen considerably, with severe consequences for patients.

Awareness of the negative effects of antibiotic resistance in the adult population is necessary because it models the behavior of children. This means the information must reach all groups, since living in the urban environment does not guarantee proper practice. One aspect that should be taken into account is that antibiotic treatment is easier for families living in towns, as there are more pharmacies.

Providing accurate and meaningful information to the targeted population may be done by many means, but the role of healthcare professionals is the most important. The counseling they can provide for avoiding infection and for minimizing antibiotic resistance is very important and necessary.

**Conclusions**

The use of antibiotics is widespread and often it is done without the doctor's recommendation. This practice leads to alarming rates of antibiotic resistance, and children are at risk more than adults due to the immaturity of their immune system. Romania ranks high at antibiotic resistance, and few measures are implemented for lowering the AB resistance rate. Brașov, one of Romania's main tourist attractions, is a good example for AB resistance.

Infections in children are an important topic because children are highly susceptible to infections and hard to treat. UTIs in children are of concern because often the main causes of infection are improper practices or hygiene. Based on data from a study conducted at Brașov's Hospital for Children by the author, the resistance rates are higher than those found in literature. However, the present practice methods when treating UTIs (broad-spectrum AB therapy) ensure proper infection eradication and excellent results. This, coupled with lower rates of infection would be sufficient measures to work towards lowering AB resistance in the near future, for the majority of cases.

In order to lower resistance, the most important practice is to prevent infection. We propose a series of easy to implement information campaigns meant to teach all parents the basic sanitation principles, starting before they even leave the maternity ward. This can be accomplished through flyers and posters and on social media networks. This

information needs to be accessible to the entire population, based on their level of education.

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# PERCEPTION OF CAPITAL, PROFIT AND DIVIDENDS AFFECT THE STOCK PURCHASE INTENTION IN INDONESIA PUBLIC COMPANY

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**ABSTRACT**

*This study aims to investigate the influence perception of Capital Gains and Dividends on Stock Purchase Intention in Indonesian companies. Variables used in this research are the capital, profit and dividends (independent variables) and Stock Purchase Intention (dependent variable) and to show their relationship, it was used multiple linear regression. This research included Manufacturing Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange and there were taken into account a number of 38 societies Data of this research are secondary data, obtained from the financial statements of the investigated companies published in the Indonesia Stock Exchange. The results showed that simultaneous independent variables have a significant influence on the capital structure, while partially effect on the Capital Shares Purchase Intentions. It was also shown that Profit and Dividends do not affect the Stock Purchase Intention.*

**Keywords:** *Capital, Earnings, Dividend, Share Purchase Intention and Indonesian companies.*
**JEL Codes**: D53

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, manufacturing industry include basic industry and chemical sectors, various industrial and consumer goods industries in the country has grown and developed quite rapidly and quickly. It is supported by the high level of consumption as rising middle class incomes and changes in their lifestyle. One of these is the change in investments. The new trend is to base on financial investments, such as stock investment, especially in companies listed on the stock exchange.

The manufacturing industry in Indonesia is one of the prime movers' economy. Amid increasingly fierce competition, this industry requires special attention to maintain the stability of the company's capital structure in order to increase profit. In this way, investors are convicted to invest in the capital market. Stock Exchange is associated with the purchase and sale of securities of companies that are already listed on the exchange.

The stock exchange together with money market are the main sources of external capital for companies and governments

Investment is always associated with the risk, regardless of the form of the investment. Investing in the capital market has a certain risk, which is greater than investing in assets that have a low risk or close zero (risk-free), such as savings deposits and obligation Ferreir (2004); Talla, (2013) and Khodaparasti, (2014). Shares is a testament to the participation of an individual or business entity in a corporation or limited liability company.

The share price of each company is different. It will be determined by the performance of a company. Therefore, any society that issued the shares very attentive to the market price of its shares or stock equity (Almeida, 2007). The share price that is too low illustrates the company's performance is below the accepted limit. However, if the stock price is too high also causes unfavorable impact. In this situation, it tends to reduce the ability of investors to buy. Basically, there is no limit of the amount of funds (buying or selling stock).

In stock trading, the traded amount is exchanged in units called lots (Letter of transaction). Investors can put their money in the form of shares in other companies listed on the Indonesian stock exchange (Amihud, 2002; Bigelli, 2012). Shares purchased can be recorded as short-term investments and long-term investments, depending on the purpose of purchase. If the shares were purchased by the intended using of idle funds and proceeding to meet the funding needs, the purchase of shares will be recorded as short-term investments and are included in current assets group.

Some issues that affect the intention of an investor to buy shares can be determined by capital, profit and dividends obtained by investors of the company. Indonesia Stock Exchange requires a lot of 100 shares, which is the minimum limit of purchase of shares. Funds needed for the stock also varies due to variable price of shares listed on the Stock Exchange. It is closely related to the company's net profit (Khaldun & Muda, 2014). If the annual company's profit, which always increasing the attraction for investors. .

Gains from stock investments are called dividends. Yield flows of cash dividends and rising stock prices. Every year, Stockholder’s a company must decide what percentage of the company's net profit should be distributed to Stockholder’s. The rest is invested back into the company as additional capital, and used to drive the company's growth.

According to legendary investor Warren Buffett, the stability of the dividend and the net profit are indicators that corporations managed well and have a competitive advantage. Logically, when the business doesn’t register increases, yet, the company is still able to distribute dividends (Lutfi *et al*, 2016). From the descriptions and explanations that have been outlined above, researchers interested in studying the perception of capital, profits, dividends disburse securities that may affect the Stock Purchase Intention. Sample of research is manufacturing companies listed in Indonesia Stock Exchange.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

**2.1 Effect of Stock Purchase Intention of Capital Against**

Capital is the amount of deposits that is used to generate revenue Acharya, *et al*, 2007; Adrian and Shin, 2010). It is very important and represents a major requirement for entrepreneurs or investors to build a business or a business. An investor who has long struggled in the investment world certainly better understands the importance of capital in building a business. Surely, it is more profitable because investors can buy shares of several companies benefit listed on the stock exchange Indonesia.

Capital here represented with Net Profit Margin (Net Profit Margin) This ratio measures the net profit after tax to sales. The higher net profit margin the better operation of an enterprise (Vejzagic and Zarafat, 2013).

$$NPM = \frac{\text{Net Income After Taxes}}{\text{Sales}} \; x\, 100$$

**2.2. Effect of Stock Purchase Intention of Earnings**

The use of a financial statement information in the financial statements would be very useful for investors in terms of taking a transaction decision to be committed capital markets and for the information of lenders before granting loans to the company. By looking at the financial statements it can be determined a company whose financial condition is better and stable then the credit application is accepted, and vice versa the company of the debtor whose financial condition is bad then the credit application is rejected. In addition, the bank in applying the analysis of financial statements has been adequate. (Lutfie *et al*., 2016). The financial statements used by the bank on lending decision making. Given this information easier for investors to capital markets transaction to change in stock prices and trading volume. For information purposes, the financial statements are designed to show net income. This illustrates the company's ability to pay at the beginning of the agreement (Bradley, et a.l., 1984).

The financial statements will be used by stakeholders, such as investors, shareholders, government and the public as a potential buyer of shares of the company. These financial statements will also be used to measure which company's ability can grow in order to build trust within investors' expectations. This is because invested shares in the company can generate high profit. The better a company's financial statements of the current period to the next period, it will affect investor’s confidence in buying interest in shares (Gunasekarage, *et al*., 2004).

Profit is measured by the current ratio:

$$cash\ ratio = \frac{\text{cash}}{\text{current liabilities}} \; x\, 100$$

**2.3. Effect of Dividend Interests Against Buying Stocks**

The capital market has a number of distinctive properties when it is compared with other markets. One characteristic is uncertainty about the quality of the offered products. This uncertainty prompted investors to understand more about Risk Management. Shares of the company can be assessed both qualitatively and quantitatively

(Dimitrov, 2008 and D'Mello *et al*, 2008). Various considerations are accurate and reliable analysis is needed in this business to obtain the expected rate of return. In this situation, the most important aspectis the feeling of security and the level of return or dividend to be gained from such investments (Fama, 1981; Gan *et al*, 2006; Greene, 2010 and Gul, 2013).

Dividends are distributions to shareholders. The dividend distribution will reduce retained earnings and cash available to the company, and it is considered a primary purpose of a business (Lutfi *et al*, 2016). Dividends are distributed on time to make stock buying interest of investors increasingly. Dividends measured by Return on Investment (ROI) has the following mathematical relationship>

$$ROI = \frac{\text{Net Income After Tax}}{\text{Total Assets}} \; x\, 100$$

Stock Purchase Intention (EPS) is a ratio used to indicate the ability to generate earnings per share (Sharma, 2002; Hussin et al.,2012). Here's how to calculate Earnings Per Share (EPS)>

$$EPS = \frac{\text{Net Income After Tax} - \text{Dividend}}{\text{Common stock outstanding}} \; x\, 100$$

### 2.4. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework is a model that explains the relationship between different factors and the theory. Based on the description of the background, on thea review of previous studies, I have identified three (3) independent variable (X) and 1 (one) dependent variable (Y) which are exposed in Figure 1.

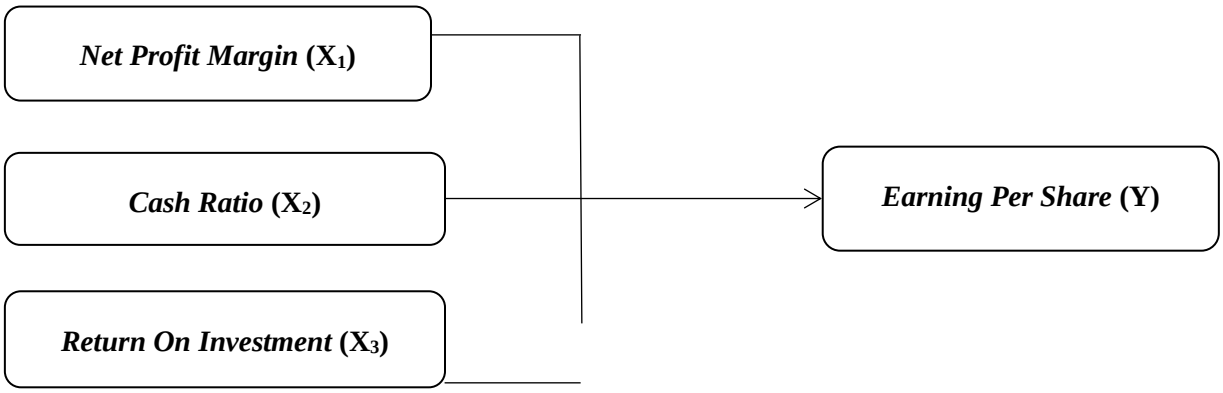


**Figure 1. Conceptual Framework**
*Source: D'Mello et al., 2008*

## 3. RESEARCH METHODS

Methods of data analysis used in this study are based on descriptive analysis and hypothesis testing performed by Multiple Linear Regression analysis using SPSS software. Once all the data was documented and collected, the researcher conducted further data analysis methods. Multiple regression analysis is a regression that has one

dependent variable and more than one independent variable (Lutfi, *et al*, 2016; Tarmizi *et al.*, 2016; Muda *et al.*, 2016; 2017 and Kumar, 2013) and it can be described as follows:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + e$$

Explanation:

Y = Stock Purchase Intention (*Earning Per Share*)
a = Constanta
$b_1$-$b_3$ = Coefficient
$X_1$ = Capital *Gains* (*Net Profit Margin*)
$X_2$ = Profit (*Cash Ratio*)
$X_3$ = Dividends (*Return on Investment*)
e = Error

The type of data included in this research (quantitative) is secondary data and it was obtained indirectly or through an intermediary medium: Indonesia Stock Exchange. The population in this study is composed by all manufacturing companies listed in Indonesia Stock Exchange during the period 2014-2015: 38 companies.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Descriptive Research Samples

This study used a population of about 144 company listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. After the sample selection criteria, only38 companies could be included in the research.

### 4.2. Analysis Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data:

**Table 1. Descriptive Statistics**

| | N | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| X1 | 38 | .14 | 32.81 | 8.2295 | 7.33166 |
| X2 | 38 | .40 | 352.43 | 58.7311 | 71.95415 |
| X3 | 38 | .18 | 41.50 | 12.7058 | 10.84708 |
| Y | 38 | .00 | 3345.00 | 591.3222 | 898.99524 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 38 | | | | |

*Sources: Data processed (2017).*

Table 1 explains that Capital ($X_1$) of manufacturing companies had a minimum value of 0:14 and a maximum value of 32.81 with an average of 8.2295 (2014/2015). The standard deviation is 7.33166 and the amount of data 38. Profit ($X_2$) manufacturing company in the 2014/2015 had a minimum value of 0.40 and a maximum value of 352.43 with an average of 58.7311. The standard deviation is 71.95415 and the amount of data 38. Dividends ($X_3$) had a minimum value of 0:18 and a maximum value of 41.50 with an

average of 12.7058. The standard deviation is 10.84708 and the amount of data 38. Stock Purchase Intention (Y) had a minimum value of 0:00 and a maximum value of 3345.00 with an average of 591.3222.

### 4.3 Data Analysis Research

### 4.3.1 Classical Assumption Test

**A. Normality Test**

In this research, the author used normality test to determine the distribution of the data. According to Kolmogogrov Smirnov test (Mahdaleta *et al*., 2016), the data is normally distributed: α<0.205 (Table no. 2). research data, as explained in Table 2 is significantly by 0.205 > α value of 0.05.

**Table 2. One Sample Kolmogorov Smirnov Test**

| | | Unstandardized Residual |
|---|---|---|
| N | | 38 |
| Normal Parameters[a,b] | Mean | 0E-7 |
| | Std. Deviation | 734.97814358 |
| Most Extreme Differences | Absolute | .173 |
| | Positive | .173 |
| | Negative | -.107 |
| Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z | | 1.067 |
| Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) | | .205 |

a. Test distribution is Normal.

b. Calculated from data.

*Sources: Data processed (2017)*

### 4.4 Hypothesis Test Results

### 4.4.1. Coefficient of Determination

Value Coefficient of Determination (R) aims to measure the variation of the dependent variable. The coefficient of determination model is used to explain the dependent variation. The coefficient of determination is zero and one. The hypothesis that was tested is (**h0**) if Capital Gains and Dividend influence (simultaneously and partially) to Stock Purchase Intentions.

**Table 3. Coefficient of Determination**

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate | Durbin-Watson |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .576[a] | .332 | .273 | 766.71830 | 1.439 |

a. Predictors: (Constant), X3, X2, X1

b. Dependent Variable: Y

*Sources: Data processed (2017)*

Adjusted R Square value in Table 3 (0.273) provides almost all the information needed to predict the variation of the dependent variable. It shows that 27.3% of Stock Purchase Intention can be explained by the variable capital, profit and dividends. Remaining 72.7% is influenced by other variables.

### 4.4.2. Test Results Statistics F

F statistical test performed to demonstrate interactions between capital, dividend income and Stock Purchase Intention. There can be seen from the results of the regression F test in Table 4 the following aspects:

**Table 4. F Test Result**

**ANOVA[a]**

| Model | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Regression | 9915983.812 | 3 | 3305327.937 | 5.623 | .003[b] |
| | Residual | 19987136.247 | 34 | 587856.948 | | |
| | Total | 29903120.059 | 37 | | | |

a. Dependent Variable: Y

b. Predictors: (Constant), X3, X2, X1

*Sources: Data processed (2017)*

$F_{count}$ values Table obtained at 5,623 while the $F_{table}$ at the 95% confidence level ($\alpha$ = 0.05) was 3,267. This shows that the $F_{count} > F_{table}$ (5,623> 3,276), which proves thatcapital, profit and dividends simultaneously affect the Stock Purchase Intention.

### 4.4.3. T Test Results

T Test shows how an independent variable (Capital/Profit/Dividend) individually or partially influences the dependent variable Stock Purchase Intention. If the value of $F_{count} > F_{table}$, it can be concluded that a partially independent variable affects the dependent variable. The results can be seen in Table 5.

**Table 5. t Test**

| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| 1 | (Constant) | 307.987 | 210.388 | | 1.464 | .152 |
| | X1 | 84.952 | 37.556 | .693 | 2.262 | .030 |
| | X2 | -7.534 | 2.740 | -.603 | -2.750 | .009 |
| | X3 | 2.102 | 19.762 | .025 | .106 | .916 |

a. Dependent Variable: Y

*Sources: Data processed (2017)*

Based on the above table, the partial effect of each independent variable on the dependent variable can be described as follows:

a. Capital (2262>2.0301) partially affects the Stock Purchase Intention from 2014 to 2015, where the value $t_{count} > t_{table}$ . .
b. Profit (-2750>2.0301) partially affects the effect on Stock Purchase Intention from 2014 to 2015, where the value $t_{count} > t_{table}$.
c. Dividend (0.106 <2.0301) partially does not affect Stock Purchase Intention from 2014 to 2015. Because the value $t_{count} > t_{table}$.

In these situations, $H_0$ was rejected and $H_1$ accepted. From the description above, the multiple regression equation can be written as:

$$\mathbf{Y = 307{,}987 + 84{,}952X_1 - 7{,}534X_2 + 2{,}102X_3 + e}$$

Variable $X_1$ influences Stock Purchase Intention with a coefficient of 84.952. It means that each increment of 1 Rupiahs to the $X_1$ will raise Stock Purchase Intention of 84.952. $X_2$ affects Stock Purchase Intention (negatively) and $X_3$ does not affect the Stock Purchase Intention as insignificant (0.859> 0.05).

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conclusion

The results of this research provide conclusions about the effect of the simultaneous perception of Capital Gains and Dividends in the Indonesia Public Companies. Capital perception and Profit are partially affected by Stock Purchase Intention and dividend variable does not affect the Stock Purchase Intention.

### 5.2. Suggestions

Based on the results in this study, the author makes the following remarks:

1. For further research is expected to increase the number of independent issues and add a suitable moderating variable to moderate the dependent and independent variables. In addition, further research is expected to increase the number of reference and the study period.
2. For companies – they should be more active in the use of internal funds as income.
3. For investors and creditors – it is necessary to pay more attention to the condition of capital ratios, Earnings and Dividends company before investing and lending to companies.

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# COUNTRY OF ORIGIN EFFECT AND PERCEPTION OF ROMANIAN CONSUMERS

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***Abstract***

*In the context of globalization, international trade has become more intense. This exploratory research aims to identify the Romanian consumers' perception of the country of origin (COO). In the present research, we analysed two perspectives of the effect of the country of origin: political economy and marketing. The positive impact of campaigns to encourage the purchase of domestic products has not yet been confirmed for the decision-makers. On the other hand, in order to achieve a successful marketing strategy, it is essential to know the consumer's perception of the COO effect. The research data was collected through a survey conducted on a sample of 250 respondents from the North-East Region of Romania. The results confirm that the effect of the home country has a moderate impact on purchases and the COO effect is more associated with certain product categories. The average COO effect on quality perception is greater than the COO's average effect on purchasing intent.*

***Keywords****: Country of origin effect, buy national, product category, consumer perception*
***JEL Classification****: F14, M21, M31*

## Introduction

Country of origin (COO) is a widely-researched concept during the last five decades. The analysis of COO effect is re-gaining its importance considering all the recent political debates. Nowadays, with the regulations of the World Trade Organisation, International Treaties and European Union, the member countries have identified and implemented indirect economic interventions through strategies to encourage buying national products (buy national). These types of actions are challenged and criticized by liberal economists. Governments, however, consider that such measures are compatible with international treaties.

Economists are preoccupied with the effects of "buy national" campaigns which promote the purchase of the home country's goods over those from other countries (Ettenson, Wagner and Gaeth, 1988; Fenwick and Wright, 2000) and, as a consequence,

there are plenty of studies addressing this topic. One of these studies, done in New Zealand, on the buy-national campaign aimed to measure the effects of the campaign considering two indicators: increase of number of jobs and increase in sales on national market. The results of the study showed that the campaign wasn't really effective for the companies involved (Fenwick and Wright, 2000). Some economists underline the benefits of such actions, but there are still liberals (Bhagwati, J. N., 2016; Krueger, A. 2017) that see it as a way of protectionism that might have unwilling effects over the national economies.

**Economic policy and the country of origin provisions**

In USA, president Donald Trump, through his slogan from the electoral campaign "Buy American, Hire American" declared the intention to promote the protectionism for the US economy. President Trump wants to implement his philosophy of economic nationalism and to encourage, in 2017, governmental measures to support his nationalist claims. In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was enacted and it was meant to stimulate similar behaviours with 'Made in USA' campaign. If the US government buys steel for a bridge, for example, it has several objectives. Minimizing costs is one of them, but when the economy is in recession, there is also an objective to stimulate domestic employment. When steel is purchased from a domestic manufacturer, the wages of employees will generate future expenses that will support more jobs in the national economy. The US ARRA law of 2009 allowed for derogations: in cases where US products required for a project are not available or when the total cost of the project is 25 percent more expensive than if imports were used, the acquisition from domestic market is no longer compulsory. In 2017, president Trump wants these derogations to be removed. In his opinion, the US has already steel, iron and other materials needed to build and repair roads and bridges. Policymakers said that these acts are not a return to protectionism, but a return to the values and virtues of USA: self-sufficiency, self-reliance and independence. Anne Krueger explains in the book How Imports Boost Employment that the effect of low-cost imports is to increase the competitiveness of American companies and thus creating more jobs (Krueger, 2017).

China has spent more than $ 15 billion in energy and steel industry subsidies only in 2007. These subsidies were illegal and disregarded the World Trade Organization rules (Bhagwati, 2009). Another example of economic nationalism is that of former French president Sarkozy. Keeping French scepticism about free trade, he went so far as to suggest that French companies to return to France from Eastern Europe.

Jagdish Bhagwati (2008) explains that the proposal to buy American products, under the law of US trade stimulation, does not make any sense to the employment in the United States of America, and of course, does not help recovering after the world's biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression. This measure will invite other nations to introduce new protections that are in line with the provisions of the World Trade Organization, following the model adopted by USA. Other countries have also many possibilities, considering also their legal commitments, to raise tariffs on US imports and

also less visible ways to punish US companies exporting leaders, such as FedEx, Microsoft, Time-Warner, United Technologies, Boeing, General Electric etc. The protectionist behaviour could trigger reciprocal actions from the partner countries with negative effects over all economies.

Anne Krueger (2017) states that the American Act will bring more damage than earnings. Once protectionist measures are adopted, they are difficult to be removed. For the long term, suffocation by protection can reduce productivity and the potential of economic growth. Also, when US companies are importing goods for less than the cost of producing, they have the potential to decrease the price of the final product (Bhagwati, 2016; Krueger, 2017).

**Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) and Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG) in European Union**

Another popular strategy for benefitting from the COO effect is the use of geographical indication and designation of origin: Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) and Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG) as specified in the regulations of the European Union. In recent years, there has been substantial interest to encourage the PDO/PGI schemes and to enhance the effectiveness of such practices (Moschini et al., 2008; Galli et al., 2011; Resano et al., 2012). The European Commission has added only five Romanian products to the Register of Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGI): Ibănești Cheese in 2016 (PDO), Topoloveni Plum Jam, Sibiu Salami, Plescoi Sausages and Smoked Carp from Bârsa area (PGI). In Europe, the use of such geographically labels to brand products has a long tradition (Moschini et al, 2008). Under a situation where customers cannot easily verify the quality of the product before they actually purchase it, quality labels diminish the perceived risk of purchasing an unsatisfactory product (Resano et al., 2012).

The use of the PDO, PGI and TSG labels is regulated by international law. There are, however, countless other examples of local, regional and national seals which are partly regulated by national or regional law or simply administered and awarded by public or private corporations based on certain criteria, for example, membership, country of brand, country of manufacture and so on. Regarding the relation between PDO, PGI, TSG and trademarks, the regulations state that the registration of a trademark is refused if an application for one of the seals has been submitted. However, there might be specific cases where a trademark co-exists with a PDO, PGI or TSG. The fact that, on one hand, the quality and origin seals of the European Union have similar legal effects as trademarks and, on the other hand, not all registered products are actually using the respective seal as part of their marketing and communication strategy show that the legal protection against misuse and imitation is a major success factor for PDO, PGI and TSG. Nevertheless, origin labels can create a competitive advantage in agricultural markets and positively influence the purchase decision of customers (Moschini et al., 2008).

**Country of origin (COO) effect. The marketing approach**

It is widely accepted that a brand's or a product's COO plays important roles in consumers' purchase decisions (Byeong-Joon and Han-Mo, 2017). The country of origin cues give consumers an indication of where a product comes from and is among other marketing elements that have an impact on consumer purchase intentions. The COO relates a product or a brand with a national identity having a symbolic and/or emotional meaning for consumers (Herz and Diamantopoulos, 2013). These non-quality-based effects of COO are identified as country-induced biases (Byeong-Joon and Han-Mo, 2017).

Furthermore, Han (1989), suggests that product evaluation and purchasing behaviour are influenced by COO directly, but also indirectly through beliefs. The COO influence on product evaluation is divided in two major effects: the halo effect and the summary effect (Han, 1989). The summary effect influences consumers' product evaluation directly, oppositely the halo effect influences consumers' product evaluation indirectly through beliefs. Johansson et al. (1985) noted the existence of a persistent "halo" effect in ratings on specific product attributes. If there is only a small amount of product information available, people can use the halo effect of COO to create inferential beliefs about other product attributes that are not available or cannot be evaluated directly (Hsieh, 2004). The results of Hsieh's study (2004) indicate that consumers' attitude towards a brand's COO is positively related with consumer brand purchase behaviour. Different research methods used to capture consumers' product evaluation processes have produced conflicting and seemingly incompatible results in COO research (Insch et al., 2017). When measured using self-completion questionnaires, COO appears to be an important cue (Hoffmann, 2000). In a meta-analysis of COO studies Verlegh and Steenkamp (1999) found its impact was intensified for single-cue and within-subject research designs and smaller for studies with multiple-cues and between subject designs. Conversely, when consumers are intercepted at the point of purchase and interviewed about factors which led to them purchasing the product in their shopping cart, there is evidence that COO plays a minor role in the actual purchase decision (Insch and Jackson, 2014; Liefeld, 2005). In a study of 1248 consumers intercepted at the cash register in six locations in Canada and the USA, more than 93% of those intercepted did not know the COO of the long-life product which they had just purchased (Liefeld, 2005).

The results of previous research show that the influence of COO in consumer product evaluations and purchase decisions has been overstated and indicate that consumers are less likely to rely on COO information when they have access to other cues (eg. price, brand, store name) about the product's quality and other intrinsic attributes (Bloemer, Brijs and Kasper, 2009; Samiee, 1994).

Srinivasan, Jain, and Sikand (2004) decomposed COO into branding country (country of brand - COB) and manufacturing country (country of manufacture - COM). They found a negative effect on consumers' quality perception when the manufacturing

country was less developed (Mexico and Malaysia) and positive effect when the manufacturing country was developed (USA and Japan). The overall suggestion of Srinivasan, Jain, and Sikand (2004) is that the seller should choose a developed country as COB to compensate the negative effect on quality perception when manufacturing in a less-developed country to reduce production costs. Similar results are shown from a Malayazian consumer perspective by the research of Ghazali et al. (2008). Despite criticisms of the disproportionate attention given to COO by researchers as compared to consumers in their daily purchase decisions, there is widespread evidence of its use in practice to enhance product and brand image. One specific application of the COO cue is the promotion of the domestic origin of goods through buy-national or buy-domestic campaigns. Such campaigns persist in many countries, even though their efficacy in different countries and across different product categories is inconclusive. Some studies suggest that such campaigns have minimal effect (Ettenson, Wagner and Gaeth, 1988; Fenwick and Wright, 2000; Fischer and Byron, 1995).

**Research methodology**

The main objective of this study has been to investigate the perception of consumers from North-East Region of Romania over the influence of product's country of origin in buying decisions.

The effects of country of origin image may be used as a surrogate when respondents lack sufficient information about the products. On the other hand, consumers who are familiar with a specific product class will rely less on the country of origin or 'made in' label.

One hypothesis that we researched, connected to perception of quality was confirmed: COO has a significant effect on consumers' perception of quality.

Another confirmed hypothesis was that the main effect of COO on quality perception is higher than the main effect of COO on purchase intention.

The research was done in April 2017 using an on-line survey which received 263 responses from people in the North-East Region of Romania. From the total number of responses 250 were valid. The number of responses does not provide statistical representativeness, making the study a pilot one. The survey includes 21 questions, 14 of them being adapted after Darling and Wood (1990). The consumer's general view on country-of-origin information was evaluated through a set of statements for which the respondents expressed their agreement or disagreement on a five-point Likert scale, from *Strongly agree* to *Strongly disagree*. The structure of the sample includes 77.2% female and 22.8% male, aged 18 to 74 years.

**Research results**

The processing of the data obtained for the statements in the questionnaire reveals an average score higher than 3.00, showing that the country of origin is important in consumer perception of the product, without being decisive (Table 1). The highest average score, 3.88, is associated with the statement: When I buy expensive products,

such as a car, a TV or a refrigerator, I always seek to find out what country they were produced in. The more expensive a product, the greater the importance the consumer will give to its country of origin. The second highest average score is 3.65 and is associated with the second statement in the table, linking the country of origin with the quality of the product. Moreover, the above-average score, 3.38, obtained for statement number 5, confirms the perceived link between quality and country of origin. In the purchasing decision, respondents consider the country-of-origin information important, with an average score of 3.58.

**Table No. 1. Opinion of Romanian consumers on country of origin information**

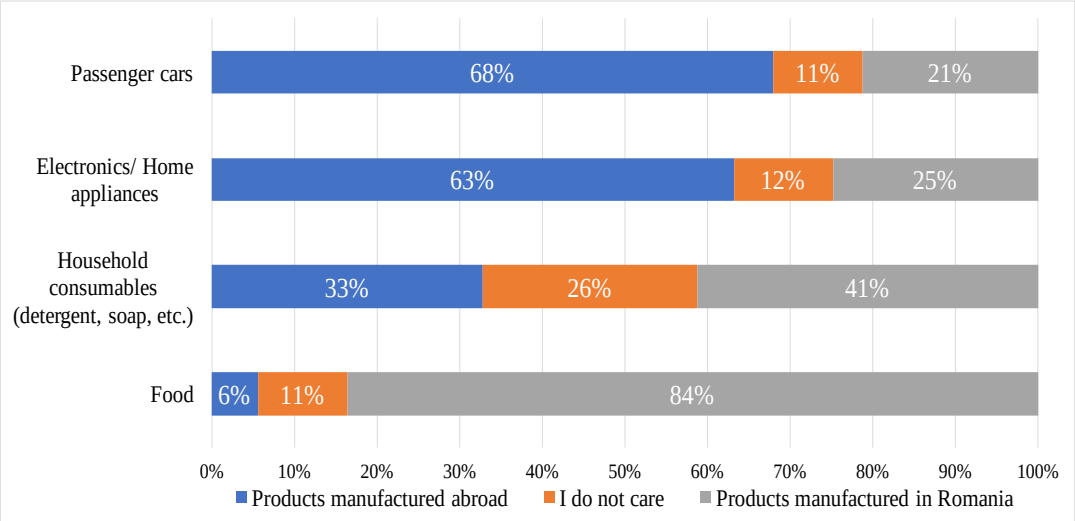
| No. | Statement | N | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | When buying expensive items such as a car, TV or refrigerator, I always seek to find out what country the product was made in. | 250 | 3.88 |
| 2. | To make sure that I buy the highest quality product or brand, I look to see what country the product was made in. | 250 | 3.65 |
| 3. | I feel that it is important to look for a country of origin information when deciding which product to buy. | 250 | 3.58 |
| 4. | It is less important to look for country of origin when buying a product that is less expensive such as a shirt. | 250 | 3.45 |
| 5. | I find out a product's country of origin to determine the quality of a product. | 250 | 3.38 |
| 6. | Seeking country of origin information is less important for inexpensive goods than for expensive goods. | 250 | 3.24 |
| 7. | When purchasing a product, I believe country of origin will determine the technological sophistication of the product. | 250 | 3.22 |
| 8. | A product's country of origin does not determine the quality of the product. | 250 | 3.20 |
| 9. | If I have a little experience with a product, I search for country of origin information about the product to help me make a more informed decision. | 250 | 3.15 |
| 10. | To purchase a product that is acceptable to my family and my friends, I look for the product's country of origin. | 250 | 3.15 |
| 11. | I look for country of origin information to choose the best product available in a product class. | 250 | 3.14 |
| 12. | I refuse to purchase a product without knowing its country of origin. | 250 | 2.74 |

| No. | Statement | N | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | When I am buying a new product, the country of origin is the first piece of information that I consider. | 250 | 2.53 |

*Source: Developed by authors based on the research in March-April 2017*

In other words, the country of origin is most relevant to consumers when buying expensive goods with high expectations of quality. When the product under consideration is not perceived as expensive, information on the country of origin of the product becomes less important. However, the purchasing decision is generally not primarily influenced by the country of origin information, as evidenced by the low scores (2.74 and 2.53) associated with the statement no. 12*: I refuse to purchase a product without knowing its country of origin.* and no. 13: *When I am buying a new product, the country of origin is the first piece of information that I consider*.

**Figure No 1. Country of manufacture preferences for Romanian consumers (North-East Region) for different product categories**




*Source: Made by the authors using research data*

The consumer preferences for the country of origin differ according to the product categories considered. For example, in terms of food, the overwhelming majority of respondents (83.6%) claim that they prefer Romanian products. But as the technical complexity, the price and the duration of product use increase, the preferences of the respondents are more and more oriented towards products made abroad. For the car category, for example, 68% of them prefer the ones manufactured abroad. Therefore, the Romanian cultural stereotype of the foreign car mirage is still alive and affects the perceptions of the respondents.

The category of household supplies is distinguished by doubling the share of those indifferent to the country of origin of the products in relation to the other three large product categories.

In this study, another objective was to identify the country of origin preferred when purchasing a new car. This type of product has been chosen because it involves a documented purchase decision, being a product of high value and long-term use. Respondents were asked to order five countries on the basis of their preference for the country of origin of the new passenger car that they would purchase. The five countries included in the questionnaire, presented in table 2, were selected based on data on the volume of new car sales in 2016 in Romania (APIA, 2016).

**Table No. 2. Country of manufacture preferences for Romanian consumers (North-East Region) for a new passenger car**

| Country | N | Mean | Std. error |
|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 250 | 1.93 | 0.10 |
| Romania | 250 | 2.90 | 0.08 |
| France | 250 | 2.92 | 0.07 |
| Czech Republic | 250 | 3.45 | 0.08 |
| Spain | 250 | 3.57 | 0.08 |

In the top of the respondents' preferences, Germany leads, confirming once again the notorious trust in German quality for cars. Romania is on a second honourable place. The explanation for the position of Romania may be found in analysing the positive evolution of the Romanian car manufacturer Dacia Automobile after the acquisition by Renault-Nissan Alliance.

## Conclusions and future research

The main research question of the present study was whether country of origin cues have an impact on Romanian consumers purchase intentions. Respondents' ratings on the categories of products and indications of purchasing decisions show that home country information is perceived as important. The effect of the country of origin varies with the perception of the quality and price of the product. The country's average impact on quality perception is higher than the average effect on purchasing intent.

Considering these findings, we suggest that encouraging the development, innovation and quality of Romanian products could be a better strategy than promoting protectionist policies.

Extending the research results is limited by the size of the sample. For the results to be relevant at national level, the effect of the country of origin should be further analysed on larger samples and the data should be collected in at least two frameworks.

The framework of declaration of buying intent should be overlapped with the framework of real purchasing analysis. A deepening of the research can be achieved by investigating Romanians' perception of the links between the characteristics of a product and the country of origin. Such research could lead to a re-assessment of the opportunities offered by the use of geographical indications and designations of origin, i.e. the protected designation of origin, the protected geographical indication or the traditional specialty guaranteed.

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# CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR FROM ROMANIA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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## ABSTRACT

*Corruption is becoming an increasingly acute problem lately for Romania and the authorities are trying to find solutions in this regard. Until now the anti-corruption strategy has undergone four stages, by approving as many sets of anti-corruption strategic documents (National Anti-corruption Strategies in 2001, 2005, 2008 and 2012).*

*In this research, we started from the assumption that there is a correlation between corruption in the public sector and the corruption in the private sector, involving the corrupting power represented by the private sector and corruptible power represented by the public sector. The hypothesis was confirmed by detailed analyzes conducted in this regard using a number of variables such as the percentage of convictions in the public or private sector, the position that the culprit holds, the county he/she comes from, the institution in which they operate, type of sentence (suspended or performed) and the penalty in months.*

*Then using the statistical functions Data Analysis, PivotTable of Excel software, the 3110 observations were processed. The centralizing tables were made by filtration and then the ventilation data by numerical and geographical coordinates.*

*The quantitative information provided by these summary tables combined with qualitative information derived from extensive analyzes conducted during this investigation, led to the confirmation of the basic assumption that there is a correlation between corruption manifested in the public and private sector.*

*This correlation becomes more powerful as the bureaucratic system, namely the workload in the public sector is growing. In this regard, we have concrete examples in the counties of Cluj, Timiș, Constanța, Prahova, Bucharest, respectively.*

**KEYWORDS**: corruption, public sector, private sector, convicted individuals, counties
**JEL CLASIFICATION:** *H19, J19*

## INTRODUCTION

The new challenges of modern society and the major social change fuel outbreaks of traditional tension. Thus, there is an increase of some unconventional and cross-border risks, such as corruption and economic instability. One of the main functions of

management, both in the public and private sectors is to encourage and facilitate national integrity and fight against corruption.

For public institutions in Romania, the function was highlighted by Government Decision no. 215/2012 which involves the implementation of the National Anticorruption Strategy for 2012-2015. This strategy started from the premise that any new file of the National Integrity Agency (ANI), of the National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) or sanction of disciplinary order on the failure of abiding the code of conduct represents a failure of management of the institution in terms of prevention of these incidents of integrity and fight corruption, in the broadest sense of the term. The strengths of this national strategy were the administrative controls of ANI as primary means of fighting corruption at all levels.

While there has been adopted legislation on integrity, there were implemented tools for the prevention and fight against institutional corruption, checking incompatibilities in exercising public positions (Torje & Ștefan, 2016). In the process of harmonization of the legal system in Romania with European directives and recommendations, a major focus was placed on fighting corruption through a process of justice independence. (Ionica, 2012). Conflict and incompatibilities between different functions are governed by Law 161/2003 as regards its measures to ensure transparency in the exercise of public functions and in business, as well as in preventing and punishing corruption. According to Dascalu (2016) structurally, functionally and culturally corruption is organized by the rules of a market economy. Corruption constitutes a pseudo-society practicing vertical and horizontal integration, constantly being open to novelties and improvement. This way, it provides an incentive for its members.

The authors, Șerb and Secrăianu, (2016) note that, when talking about corruption, in terms of psychosocial phenomenon, the actors of the political scene have a very subjective approach regarding the fight against this phenomenon effectively. In this regard, quite often, the motivation for the issuance of legal regulations was due to pressure from European institutions.

Corruption is an important component of organized crime and it is a lucrative business. The latter is very well preserved, and sometimes even thrives during financial crises, yielding increasingly higher profits amid panic and disorientation of population. (Epure, 2016). According to Bosovski (2006), there is some collective thinking in terms of perception of corruption, by the states of Central and Eastern Europe that do not converge with the visions of populations of Western countries on the perception of this phenomenon. In this context, the European Union has shown itself to be quite sensitive on the issue of corruption, so there was great hesitation in accepting Bulgaria and Romania precisely for these reasons. The lack of a common strategy in understanding and addressing this phenomenon, made the perception of the population to be a polychromatic one, according to the terminology of Heidenheimer (1996).

## METHODOLOGY

The current research was conducted to complement the specialized literature in an area in which there aren't many recent studies and where, currently, there is great public interest. The main motivation for this research was based on the assumption that corruption is one of the main culprits of reducing resources required for a country to develop the industry, investment, jobs, making it to reach a very low level of public confidence in state institutions. In this regard they have been used real information collected from both press releases on convictions and the final communiqués on indictments present on DNA site. The time horizon considered for this investigation was the period between 2010-2014, since the final sentences are available on DNA site starting from 2010.

In this study, it was pursued the spread of corruption on 2 levels, namely the public sector and the private sector. Thus the 3110 comments were categorized and summarized according to several criteria such as: public or private sector, position that the culprit person holds, the county where he/she comes from, the institution within which he\she activates, the type of punishment (suspended or performed) and the penalty in months. Using statistical functions (data analysis, PivotTable) of Excel software there were made more correlations and comparisons between the data analyzed in order to capture as faithfully and consistently as possible, the corruptible behavior of the 3110 people surveyed by the Romanian justice.

Emphasis was placed on the classification of persons convicted on the two sectors, public and private, as well as the territorial area where corruption recorded some of the highest values, according to the conviction rate.

One of the preliminary assumptions in this research is, that, between the public and private sectors, there is a close connection, and the more complex the bureaucratic system is the more favorable environment it creates for the development of corruption. At the beginning it appears there is a desire of the people from the private sector to try to shorten waiting times by offering informal payments to civil servants. Over time this practice may become increasingly larger leading to the so-called phenomenon of widespread corruption, which brings great financial and image losses of the entire country. During this paper, for a better understanding, we opted to insert tables generated with PivotTables to capture and highlight as easy as possible, novelty items found and an overview of the progress of the whole scientific endeavor.

These results were correlated with the length of the sentence variable, and, at the end of the research, there have been completed tables centralizing the capture of corruption both in the public and private sectors. To establish this set of summary tables, we will take into account the values of variables, the number of corruption cases in each county and Bucharest, filtered through the two main levels, public and private. Thus, the recorded values will be sorted ascending; the first third will be within first grade, second-third, second grade, and the last third consisting of the counties with the most cases of corruption will be found in third class.

The purpose of these centralizing tables is to be able to present in a simple and easy way to understand the size of corruption in the counties in Romania through a quantitative prism. These quantitative data combined with qualitative information obtained after analyzing and processing other variables will determine relevant and well reasoned conclusions on the size and the peculiarities of corruption.

## RESULTS AND DISCUTION

Using as a starting point, the data collected by the Academic Society of Romania in partnership with *romaniacurata.ro* on the DNA activity, there was drawn up a database on local manifestation of corruption in the form of a series of statistical information which capture DNA cases handled by prosecutors, in 2010-2014. Following the screening, sorting and processing of the 3110 cases, a first table was drawn regarding corruption in the private sector for which there have been issued final convictions.

*Table 1.* **Centralization of corruption in the private sector in 2010-2014**

| **Count of sectorPublic** | **Column Labels** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Row Labels** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **Grand Total** |
| Individuals | 42 | 56 | 193 | 527 | 413 | 1231 |
| Trading company | 36 | 99 | 128 | 178 | 181 | 622 |
| Barou | 9 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 27 | 64 |
| NGO | 1 | | 3 | 7 | 7 | 18 |
| Driving School | 1 | 2 | | | 4 | 7 |
| Political party | | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Private school unit | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| Romanian Football Federation | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Sindicate/Union | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| SC Mentchim SA | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Union Cultural House | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Private University | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| **Grand Total** | **89** | **165** | **337** | **728** | **639** | **1958** |

*Source: Output returned from the application of statistical functions PivotTable*

Table 1 presents a filtering of all cases of corruption in the private sector which were concluded with a final conviction in 2010-2014. The 1958 observations were originally structured by the institution from which such persons come from and subsequently, it was performed a temporal dispersion over the 5 years that were analyzed. It was noted an increasing trend in the number of convictions since 2010, and the maximum is recorded in 2013 (728 convictions). In 2014 we have a slight decrease of 12.22% over the previous year, and the difference expressed quantitatively in the number of convictions for the years 2013 respectively 2014 is 89 cases, an identical value to that

recorded in 2010. In this respect we notice that in the most productive year in terms of the number of convictions for corruption, 2013, we had 728 cases, i.e. as many cases as there have been solved in 2010 and 2014 combined.

Regarding the type of convicted persons, most of them are individuals, and the maximum convictions among them was recorded also in 2013 (527 convictions), which represents over 70% of convictions that year. On the second position, there were legal persons acting on behalf of companies. Surprisingly, the maximum amount of corruption cases resolved by final conviction was not recorded in 2014 but in 2015. Although in 2015 there were only 3 cases settled more than in 2014, the difference from 2010-2011 is significant. In 2014, there have also been resolved the most cases of corruption regarding Bars (27 cases) compared to 11 cases which were settled by 2012-2013.

The last two positions were occupied by a director of a House of Culture in Sibiu, who was sentenced in 2013 to 4 years suspended after committing acts of corruption and a teacher at a private university in Caraș-Severin who has received a sentence of 54 months to be served.

In Table 2, we have summarized data on cases of corruption committed in the public sector, to which were submitted final convictions.

*Table 2.* **Centralization of corruption in the public sector from 2010 to 2014**

| **Count of Public sector** | **Column Labels** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Row Labels** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **Grand Total** |
| Police (MAI) | 16 | 15 | 55 | 27 | 25 | 138 |
| City Hall | 11 | 19 | 17 | 31 | 52 | 130 |
| Inspectorate for Emergency Situations | | 4 | 7 | 10 | 67 | 88 |
| General Directorate of Public Finances | 6 | 9 | 12 | 49 | 11 | 87 |
| ..... | | | | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Ministry of Economy, Trade and Tourism | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Romanian lottery | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Zonal Selection and Orientation Center (Ministry of National Defense) | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Fire Department (MAI) | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| **Grand Total** | **61** | **123** | **256** | **304** | **408** | **1152** |

*Source: Output returned from the application of statistical functions PivotTable*

Like the private sector, the trend for the number of cases of corruption that have been convicted, is in a continuous growth from 2010 to 2013. The peculiarity is that the public sector has maintained an upward trend in 2014 where it even recorded a significant increase over the previous year by over 30%. With reference to increases in the 2010-2011, respectively 2011-2012 where the increase was over 100%, we believe that the upward trend has somehow slowed down a bit, but it still maintains the same trend.

At a closer look we find that the first position is held by the staff of the Interior Ministry, with 138 convictions, but just as with officials from municipalities (second position in the ranking) values vary greatly from year to year, being unable to establish a clear trend with regard to future developments. However, between the top two categories of officials, there is an inversely proportional correlation. This means that when among officials from the police, the number of corruption cases settled down, during the same year, among officials from city hall there is an increase compared to the previous year, that fact being recorded for all 5 years analyzed. However, there are sectors where the upward trend is steady from year to year; in this regard we have data on officials from the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

The last positions are occupied by the staff in the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Tourism, Romanian Lottery, Zonal Selection and guidance of the Ministry of National Defense, as well as the Fire Brigade with one single conviction recorded during the 5 years analyzed. In this context we find that the number of persons convicted for corruption from private sector is higher by 40.97% compared to the number of people in the public sector. Assuming that the justice act is performed independently without taking into account the sector from which a person comes from (public or private), we see that the greatest pressure on recess of corruption occurs in the private sector. Consequently, a person from the private sector is more willing to try to bribe an official of the state than to be asked directly or indirectly so. It follows that in the years 2010-2014, the corruptive behavior was more intense than the corruptible behavior of public officials.

Analyzing deeper, we find out that the average public sector sentence was 31.90 months while the average sentence for corruption in the private sector is 32.90 months. Looking closely, it is noted that in the public sector, out of the 1152 convictions, 785 convictions are suspended, and 367 with execution while in the private sector, out of the 1958 convictions, 1344 are suspended and 614 executed. Although the share of suspended sentences is about 2 thirds of all convictions for both private sector and for the public, however, it is recorded a slightly higher trend in the share of executed sentences in the public sector with 31,85% compared to the private sector where it is 31.35%.

For the period 2010-2014, in the public sector, the top 10 most corrupt functions are: teacher (59) mayor (56), police agent (56), director (49), inspector (47), Head of Department (43) officer of judicial police (41), police officer (38), advisor (36), Commissioner (34) and the last 10 positions with one single sentence are: a corporal, a member of boarding committee, coordinating director, forestry technician, commissioner of border police, national authority deputy, coordinating director of financial guards, prison staff, cashier, deputy commander. In the private sector, the first 10 positions occupied by persons convicted of corruption are: individuals (1222), manager (380), lawyer (62), representative (46), director (38), associate (22), driver ( 16) commercial workers (12), CEO (12), legal adviser (8) and the last 10 functions on the table, which recorded one single case of corruption are: President of bank, chief of agency, executive director, risk manager , chairman of the Management board, member of boarding committee, executive president, commercial agent, collaborator, senior engineer.

In Table 3 we synthesized the entire database by criteria such as the number of convictions, the public sector and the territorial dispersion.

*Table 3.* **Table summarizing the number of convictions in the public sector and territorial dispersion for the period 2010-2014**

| County ( I class) | Number of convictions | County (II class) | Number of convictions | County (III class) | Number of convictions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sălaj | 1 | Călărași | 15 | Gorj | 24 |
| Mehedinți | 3 | Satu Mare | 17 | Cluj | 25 |
| Bistrița-Năsăud | 4 | Hunedoara | 17 | Bacău | 27 |
| Botoșani | 5 | Iași | 19 | Dâmbovița | 27 |
| Tulcea | 5 | Vaslui | 19 | Neamț | 35 |
| Ialomița | 7 | Suceava | 19 | Timiș | 42 |
| Covasna | 7 | Brașov | 21 | Caraș-Severin | 42 |
| Teleorman | 8 | Galați | 21 | Constanța | 42 |
| Harghita | 8 | Alba | 21 | Prahova | 51 |
| Brăila | 9 | Bihor | 22 | Maramureș | 54 |
| Sibiu | 10 | Ilfov | 22 | Giurgiu | 54 |
| Arad | 11 | Vrancea | 22 | Dolj | 60 |
| Olt | 11 | Mureș | 23 | Argeș | 66 |
| Buzău | 11 | Vâlcea | 23 | București | 222 |

*Source: The authors' proiection*

Table 3 reflects the classification of counties and Bucharest depending on the number of people who were sentenced for committing corruption. Sălaj occupies the first position with only one case, and, on the last position is Bucharest with over 200 cases. There is a substantial difference between the last county: Argeș, 66 convictions and Bucharest respectively with 222 convictions, the amplitude of the two being 156 convictions.

In Table 4, there were synthesized a number of data regarding the private sector, the number of convictions, respectively the counties.

*Table 4.* **Table summarizing the number of convictions in the private sector and territorial dispersion for the period 2010-2014**

| County (I class) | Number of convictions | County (II class) | Number of convictions | County (III class) | Number of convictions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sălaj | 1 | Dâmbovița | 15 | Neamț | 36 |
| Teleorman | 2 | Olt | 15 | Bihor | 39 |
| Mehedinți | 3 | Vrancea | 15 | Satu Mare | 41 |
| Bistrița-Năsăud | 5 | Brăila | 16 | Ilfov | 42 |
| Hunedoara | 5 | Suceava | 16 | Iași | 45 |
| Botoșani | 6 | Mureș | 17 | Timiș | 45 |
| Vaslui | 6 | Giurgiu | 18 | Prahova | 48 |
| Harghita | 9 | Dolj | 24 | Arad | 54 |
| Covasna | 10 | Ialomița | 27 | Cluj | 65 |
| Sibiu | 12 | Vâlcea | 27 | Constanța | 66 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buzău | 13 | Galați | 32 | Argeș | 83 |
| Alba | 14 | Caraș-Severin | 33 | Maramureș | 114 |
| Tulcea | 14 | Gorj | 34 | Bacău | 173 |
| Călărași | 15 | Brașov | 36 | București | 667 |

*Source: The authors' proiection*

Like in Table 3, Sălaj County ranks first with one final sentence. Bucharest still stands on the last position; only this time the amplitude of the county with the highest score and Bucharest is 494 convictions, over 3 times higher than in the public sector. Also from Table 3, we find that although Calarasi County also has 15 cases of sentencing as in the public sector, this time it is situated in the first class. The fact is due to the low number of convictions in relation to the average of convictions in the private sector, which is of 45.53 or 30.73 convictions, if we except Bucharest.

Although corruption is responsible for a range of damages which reflect on us by a low standard of living and purchasing power, few are thinking about the causal link between low pensions and tax evasion, or the link between a fictitious prescription issued by a physician and insufficient funds for covered medications. However, tax evasion is the one that has resulted in increased taxes and the decrease of supply of jobs and ultimately corruption as a result of this process.

## CONCLUSION

The category of people in the private sector for whom there have been issued the most convictions are the individuals who, in exchange for various favors or preferential treatment from the authorities, tried to bribe various public officials.

Although the proportion of convictions in the private sector is noticeably higher than that of people in the public sector, the latter benefit from an average penalty of just 0.3 months less than the average length of a sentence for a person in the private sector.

Of the 3110 convictions, 1152 are for people in the public sector and 1958 are for people in the private sector, and from 2010 until 2013, both the public and the private sectors have recorded increases in the number of convictions from one year to another.

Following the analysis, there have been highlighted certain features on convictions, given to town halls officials and police officers. From year to year the number of convictions oscillates in the positive and in the negative sense for each of the 5 years, and the correlation between the two categories of officials is reversed.

An area of convergence between public and private sectors is that in both cases two thirds of the sentences are suspended, and about one third of the sentence is executed.

Regarding the territorial classification based on the number of convictions, both in the public and private sector the first position is occupied by Sălaj, and, on the last is Bucharest.

The large number of convictions in Bucharest may be explained by the larger density of companies than in a county of the province. In this situation, sometimes the

public authorities fail to cope with difficult multiple requests from the private sector, and for this reason more people are willing to make informal payments.

The decrease of the corruption is a very important goal for the Romanian authorities, whereas the consequences of this phenomenon are very serious and lead to erosion of public confidence in state institutions as well as to the increase of citizen insecurity.

In order to efficiently discourage corruption there should be collaboration between persons assigned to positions of public institutions and authorities, so that acts of corruption could be discovered easily and further measures to prevent such situations could be taken.

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# REDACTORII "TRIBUNEI" DIN SIBIU: CARIERE UNIVERSITARE ȘI PROVOCĂRI JURNALISTICE[1]

# THE EDITORS OF "TRIBUNA" FROM SIBIU: UNIVERSITY CAREERS AND JOURNALISTIC CHALLENGES

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***Abstract***

*The history of Tribuna's movement has a high importance for Romanian academic knowledge. The newspaper was founded in Sibiu in 1884, and it was marked by an entire series of intellectuals from Transylvania. We note that the first generation of Tribuna was formed by Telegraful Roman editorial board, many prospective members of this newspapers being initiated into politics and journalism by Nicolae Cristea. They wanted to set a newspaper in Transylvania in order to keep a close contact with liberal circles in the Kingdom, as the man of the Tribuna members in Bucharest was Ion Bianu. With all the research that has been done so far on this subject of Tribuna movement, the contribution of liberals of the Old Kingdom to the establishment of Tribuna in Sibiu is still unknown. The leadership of the new newspaper was taken over by the writer, journalist and scholar Ioan Slavici, who at that time worked at Timpul newspaper in Bucharest.*

*To prepare this study, we used general bibliography about the modern history of Transylvania and the Tribuna movement, studies, articles and unpublished sources, the Metropolitan Library Archive of Sibiu, Ioan Lupaş Fund. In the cases that described biographical medallions we were most likely unable to reconstruct the life of some of the Tribuna members, leaving room to other research on this topic.*

**Keywords:** *culture, social promotion, prosopography, journalists, politics.*

## La început a fost ideea…… înființării unui ziar

Istoria grupării tribuniste este strâns legată de activitatea *Telegrafului Român* de la Sibiu, prima generație de redactori ai *Tribunei* s-au format ca jurnaliști în cadrul acestei publicații, Nicolae Cristea fiind acela care i-a îndrumat pe tinerii tribuniști în gazetărie și jurnalism. Majoritatea tinerilor care au îmbrățișat vederile *Tribunei* erau filogermani, o bună parte dintre redactorii acestui ziar având definitivate studii la Viena,

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Berlin, Bonn, Leipzig, Heidelberg etc, universități prestigioase ale occidentului european. Deviza *Tribunei* stabilită de Ioan Slavici era: *Soarele, pentru toți românii, la București răsare* **(Boia, 2013,** passim**)**.

***Apoi au fost redactorii lui.....***

Ziarul *Tribuna* a fost primul cotidian politic și literar apărut în Transilvania la 14/26 aprilie 1884, care promova Direcția Nouă în Ardeal. Mișcarea tribunistă a reprezentat încununarea junimis-mului în Transilvania și succesul *Convorbirilor literare* în această regiune istorică. **(Popovici**, **2008**, passim; **Slavici**, **1896**, passim**; Boia**, **2013**, passim; **Danciu**, **2004**, passim; **Iercoșan**, **1983**, passim**)**. Director și redactor responsabil, apoi numai director al ziarului *Tribuna,* a fost **Ioan Slavici** (1848-1925). Scriitorul, jurnalistul și omul politic Ioan Slavici s-a născut la Șiria, lângă Arad, în anul 1848, localitate unde a terminat învățământul primar. Studiile liceale le-a urmat la Arad şi la Timişoara. Din dorinţa de a continua formarea profesională, în anul 1868 s-a înscris la Facultatea de Drept din Budapesta, dar din cauza condiţiilor materiale şi a sănătăţii nu a putut să-şi definitiveze studiile universitare. Este înrolat în Regimentul K.U.K., aceasta fiind o ocazie favorabilă pentru tânărul scriitor de a-și completa studiile la Viena. Ascensiunea intelectuală este marcată de perioada de practică pe care o urmează în anul 1872 la cabinetul avocatului Stănescu, iar în anul 1873 ocupă funcţia de arhivar la consistoriul din Oradea. Diferențele de opinii dintre Ioan Slavici şi noul mitropolit Miron Romanul sunt evidente în acest interval de timp. În perioada 1873-1874, încearcă să promoveze anumite examene la Universitatea din Viena, dar din cauza sănătăţii care i s-a agravat, nu a reuşit acest lucru. În anul 1874, ca alți viitori tribuniști pleacă în România **(Popovici**, **2008**, passim; **Păcurariu**, **2002**, passim; **Vatamaniuc**, **1968**, passim**)**.

**Corneliu Pop Păcurariu** a fost redactor responsabil al *Tribunei* între 1884-1886, după care a fost condamnat în cadrul unui proces de presă, petrecându-și un an la închisoarea din Năsăud. Este eliberat în anul 1887, moment în care pleacă în România. S-a sinucis în anul 1904, la spitalul Colțea **(Moisil**, **1939, passim; Popovici**, **2008**, passim**)**.

Un alt redactor îl regăsim în persoana lui **Pompiliu Pipoș** (1857-1893). Acesta s-a născut în Hodol, în anul 1857, a studiat la Universitatea din Cluj, unde a fost și președinte al Societății Academice *Iulia* a studenților români. A lucrat în redacția *Tribunei* între 1884-1891, ulterior plecând la Cernăuți pentru a prelua direcțiunea ziarului *Gazeta Bucovinei,* însă s-a stins din viață la scurt timp după aceasta, la 6 februarie 1893 în capitala Bucovinei, la Cernăuți **(Diaconovich**, **1904**, p. 606**)**.

Pe fondul împrocesuării lui Cornel Pop Păcurariu, în redacția *Tribunei* este chemat omul politic, redactorul și memorandistul S. Albini. Frații Albini, atât **Tit Liviu Albini** care a fost directorul Institutului Tipografic de la Sibiu, locul unde era editată *Tribuna,* cât și fratele său **Septimiu Albini,** redactor responsabil al *Tribunei,* vor juca un rol important în mișcarea tribunistă.

**S. Albini** s-a născut la 9 iunie 1861 în localitatea Șpring, comitatul Alba de Jos, fiind primul dintre cei doi fii ai lui Vasile Albini, fost vicetribun în legiunea lui Axente

Sever de la 1848/49 și al Emiliei Neagoe, nepoată a mitropolitului greco-catolic Alexandru Sterca-Şuluțiu **(Moise**, **1998**, pp. 5-8**)**.

Studiile secundare le-a efectuat la Blaj şi Sibiu, intrând de pe acum în contact cu ideile junimiste. Şi-a continuat formarea intelectuală urmând cursurile Facultății de Litere și Filosofie în cadrul Universității din Viena între anii 1879-1883, fiind bursier al „Junimii" de la Iași (Netea, 1979, p. 346). În anul 1886 a fost chemat de către Ioan Slavici, Directorul Cotidianului sibian, să ocupe postul de redactor responsabil al ziarului. Septimiu Albini a acceptat, cu condiția ca în anul școlar 1886-1887 să i se dea libertatea de a candida pentru un post de profesor la Școala civilă de fete a ASTREI din Sibiu. Trebuie menționat că Albini a îmbrățișat vederile „Tribunei" mai ales pentru orientarea sa culturală, din memoriile sale reieşind lipsa unui interes accentuat faţă de politică. Deşi a obţinut postul de profesor în vara anului 1886, Albini a continuat să muncească şi în redacţia „Tribunei", iar după ce se retrage din învăţământ în 1888, se dedică în întregime gazetăriei. Ca profesor, a predat limba română, istoria și geografia Ungariei, munca de la catedră oferindu-i ocazia să promoveze „Direcția nouă" în Ardeal și dragostea pentru valorile satului transilvănean **(Popovici**, **2008**, pp. 225-226**)**.

Între anii 1888-1894, a fost director și redactor responsabil al „Tribunei" din Sibiu, perioadă în care dezvoltă o intensă muncă în plan cultural, dar și politico-național. În contextul tot mai accentuatei activităţi politice şi a mişcării memorandiste, Septimiu Albini a fost implicat în mai multe procese de presă, soldate cu condamnări: face temniță o lună la Cluj în anul 1889, apoi șase luni la Vác în perioada 1890-1891, iar anul 1893 îi aduce trei luni de temniță la Szeged, detenție pe care o efectuează chiar după ce se logodise (Moise, 1998, p. 27). În anul 1894 a fost condamnat la 2 ani jumate de temniță, fiind implicat în procesul Memorandului, dar trece în România, scăpând astfel de închisoare. Septimiu Albini a fost căsătorit cu Aurelia Roman, fiica lui Visarion Roman şi a avut trei fii: Radu, Mircea și Sorin - primul dintre aceștia murind în luptele de la Mărășești. (Moise, 1998, p. 30). În 1919 a revenit pentru prima dată după emigrare în Transilvania, vizitând locurile natale, dar la scurt timp după aceea a murit din cauza unei pneumonii, la data de 7 noiembrie același an. A fost înmormântat în cimitirul din Cut, alături de alți membrii ai familiei **(Moise**, **în Scutea 1980**, p. 221**)**.

Din redacția *Tribunei,* alături de Ioan Slavici care era directorul cotidianului, făceau parte, conform celor susținute de Septimiu Albini în memoriile sale, următorii redactori: Ioan Bechnitz, Pompiliu Pipoș, Nicolae Cristea, (colaborator extern), Ioan (Brândă) și autorul memoriilor, S. Albini, alături de alți tineri întorși de la studii, D. P. Barcianu, frații Aurel și Eugen Brote. Aceasta era, potrivit mărturiilor lăsate de Albini, întreaga redacție a primei foi zilnice a românilor ardeleni (**ABMAS,** Fond Ioan Lupaș, doc. 4537, f. 1-15).

**Ioan Bechnitz** (1848-1898), este cel care va da numele *Tribunei.* S-a născut în anul 1848, tatăl său fiind negustorul Antoniu Bechnitz. Liceul l-a efectuat în Sibiu, iar studiile universitare le-a urmat la Heidelberg, Viena şi Leipzig, în această din urmă localitate a parcurs studii juridice în anul universitar 1872-1873. Este perioada când dezvoltă o polemică cu profesorul său de istorie de la Heidelberg, plasându-se pe poziţii

militante pentru valorile culturale din Transilvania. În sfera publicistică a fost colaborator al *Telegrafului Român* şi al *Foişoarei Telegrafului Român* în interstițiul cronologic cuprins între anii 1876-1877. A fost un adept al ortografiei fonetice, iar aceste luări de poziție se pot observa în articolele sale **(Popovici**, **2008**, pp. 24-25**)**.

**Dimitrie Comșa** (1846-1931) s-a  născut în Sibiu, la 29 septembrie 1846, provenind dintr-o familie de ţărani. Clasele primare şi gimnaziale le urmează în localitatea natală. Formarea profesională este continuată de studii în cadrul Institutului Teologic din Sibiu. Ca alţi bursieri ai lui Şaguna, şi Dimitrie Comşa a primit o bursă pentru a urma studii agronomice. A studiat Agronomia la Academia Regală de Agricultură de la Magyar-Ovár în perioada 1871-1873. După definitivarea studiilor universitare, Dimitrie Comşa se întoarce în Ardeal, activând în calitate de profesor la Institutul Teologic din Sibiu, la catedra de Studii Economice Agricole. În cadrul acestei catedre, a predat până în anul 1909: Pomicultură, Horticultură, Legumicultură, Ştiinţe naturale, Zootehnie agricolă, Fizică, Chimie, Contabilitate, Aritmetică, Geometrie, Geografie şi Caligrafie, toate acestea fiind înglobate ulterior în materia numită Economie rurală. În sfera publicistică, a îmbrăţişat vederile celor de la *Telegraful Român.* Împreună cu Eugen Brote editează *Călindarul bunului econom* în perioada 1877-1884. Lucrarea care îl consacră este *Pomăritul,* un tratat foarte important în acea perioadă. Ascensiunea politică şi culturală este încununată de alegerea sa ca membru în Comitetul Central Electoral al Partidului Naţional Român din Transilvania, în anul 1878. În anul următor, 1879, este ales secretar al *Reuniunii Române de Cântări din Sibiu,* preşedintele acestei asociaţii fiind Aurel Brote. După înfiinţarea ziarului *Tribuna* (1884), acesta a dat dovadă de devotament în privinţa solidarităţii cu cei grupaţi în jurul *Tribunei* **(Popovici**, **2008**, pp. 26-28**)**.

**Nicolae Cristea** (1834-1902) a fost colaborator extern al *Tribunei.* S-a născut la 14/26 octombrie 1834, în Ocna Sibiului, provenind dintr-o familie de ţărani. Clasele primare le efectuează în parohia din Ocna Sibiului, frecventând după aceea Gimnaziul catolic din Sibiu. Pregătirea profesională este continuată în intervalul de timp dintre 1857-1859, moment când urmează Institutul Teologic-Pedagogic din Sibiu. În perioada cât a activat ca profesor la Institutul Teologic şi funcţionar la Consistoriul din Sibiu, în anii 1859-1861, Mitropolitul Andrei Şaguna îi acordă o bursă pentru a studia filosofia şi istoria la Leipzig. În plan editorial şi publicistic, se remarcă ca fiind redactor la *Telegraful Român,* în răstimpul dintre 17/29 octombrie 1865-8/20 octombrie 1883, în acest an fiind obligat să se retragă din redacţia *Telegrafului Român.* Anul 1869 i-a adus mariajul cu Elefteria (Eleuteria) Manole, devenind astfel cumnat prin mezalianţă cu negustorul Diamandi Manole. Andrei Şaguna a lăsat scris în testament, ca după moartea sa, să rămână în continuare redactor al *Telegrafului Român* tot Nicolae Cristea. Astfel, prin demersurile sale și prin activitatea sa jurnalistică, Nicolae Cristea a avut un rol hotărâtor în promovarea Noii Direcții în Ardeal **(Popovici**, **2008**, pp. 28-29**)**.

Un alt redactor mai puțin cunoscut al *Tribunei* a fost **Ioan (Brândă)**, singura mențiune documentară pe care o avem despre prezența acestui tânăr corector în redacția *Tribunei* am identificat-o printre manuscrisele lui Septimiu Albini. Este posibil ca pe el

să-l fi înlocuit în 1887 Adrian Cașolțeanu (**ABMAS**, Fond Ioan Lupaș, doc. 4537, f. 1-15**)**.

**Adrian Cașolțeanu** (1856-1908) a fost ziarist și redactor al *Tribunei* în perioada 1887-1888. A fost redactor și la alte ziare: *Epoca* și *Secolul* **(Predescu**, **1999**, p. 177**)**.

**Daniil Popovici Barcianu** (1847-1903) s-a născut în Răşinari, la data de 19 octombrie 1847, tatăl său fiind preotul Sava Barcianu. Şcoala primară confesională o urmează în Răşinari, iar în Sibiu, în perioada 1858-1866 efectuează Gimnaziul Evanghelic, urmând ca apoi, între anii 1866-1869 să se înscrie la Institutul Teologic-Pedagogic. Pentru o perioadă de un an de zile (1869-1870), Daniil Popovici Barcianu a fost învăţător în Răşinari, formarea sa culturală fiind marcată de plecarea cu o bursă din partea Ministerului de Culte şi Instrucţiune Publică la Dresda. Acest stipendiu i s-a oferit pentru a studia calitatea învăţământului german şi a aplica cunoştinţele dobândite la întoarcerea sa în Ardeal. Şi Daniil Popovici Barcianu este bursier al lui Şaguna, iar după anul 1870, învaţă în centrele importante universitare, printre care putem aminti: Viena (1870-1871), Bonn (1871-1872) şi Leipzig (1872-1874). La aceste universităţi a fost preocupat de studierea filosofiei, pedagogiei şi ştiinţelor naturale. Ascensiunea profesională a fost evidenţiată de obţinerea titlului de doctor în ştiinţele naturii, în anul 1874 la Leipzig, teza sa fiind intitulată: *Untersuchungen über die Bluthentwicklung der Onagraceen*. În anul 1873, moare Andrei Şaguna, susţinătorul lui Daniil Popovici Barcianu, acest lucru ducând la dificultăţi majore, la întoarcerea sa în Ardeal. A avut oportunitatea de a preda la Universitatea din Bucureşti, acesta replicând că: *e mult de lucru în Ardeal și luptători sunt puțini* **(Popovici**, **2008**, p. 23).

Anul 1875 îi aduce funcţia de secretar al ASTREI din Sibiu, având un salariu de 300 de florini. Între 1876-1880 a fost numit profesor la Institutul teologic-pedagogic din Sibiu. În perioada 1876-1887 a fost director al Şcolii de fete a ASTREI din Sibiu. În anii 1890-1892 şi Daniil Popovici Barcianu a făcut parte din CCE al Partidului Naţional Român din Transilvania şi Ungaria **(Popovici**, **2008**, pp. 22-23**)**.

Alți membrii ai redacției gazetei ardelene au fost frații **Aurel** și **Eugen Brote.**

**Aurel Brote** (1842-1897) a fost avocat și director al băncii de asigurare *Transilvania* din Sibiu **(Diaconovich**, **1898**, p. 591**)**.

**Eugen Brote** (1850-1912) s-a născut în familia negustorului Ioan Brote, la 29 noiembrie/11 decembrie 1850, la Răşinari. Studiile primare le-a definitivat în Răşinari, iar apoi urmează Gimnaziul în Sibiu, examenul de maturitate absolvindu-l în anul 1868. În urma studiilor superioare efectuate în anii 1868-1870 la Academia de Agricultură din Magyar-Ovár şi datorită spiritului său comercial, iniţiază o afacere cu vite. Formarea sa profesională se reflectă în scrierile sale, publicând articole în Revista *Economul* din Blaj. Activitatea sa editorială este continuată la *Telegraful Român* şi la *Foişoara Telegrafului Român.* Pe lângă activităţi politico-gazetăreşti a avut şi o importantă contribuţie în plan social: a fost controlor şi casier al ASTREI, a ocupat funcţia de asesor epitropesc între anii 1879-1888, având în subordine probleme de natură economică. Alături de Dimitrie Comşa scoate *Călindarul bunului econom* (1877-1884). Pe plan social, se mai implică în buna desfăşurare a Expoziţiei industriale şi agricole româneşti de la Sibiu (1881), luând

inițiativa strângerii de fonduri pentru Școala de fete a ASTREI din Sibiu. Este ales membru în CCE, în anul 1878. Plasându-se pe poziţii activiste, el nu a fost de acord să participe la Conferinţa din anul 1881, deoarece capacitatea sa de predicţie în ceea ce priveşte adoptarea pasivismului politic s-a adeverit **(Popovici**, **2008**, pp. 25-26; **Boia**, **2013**, pp. 13-299**)**.

Redactor al *Tribunei* sibiene în perioada 1893-1897 a fost **Gustav Augustini.** Slovac de origine, viitorul gazetar s-a născut în anul 1851, și a studiat matematica la Praga în perioada 1872-1878. Este întemnițat în capitala Cehiei, la Praga, pe o perioadă de 6 luni pentru activitatea sa. În anul 1883, emigrează în România, unde dezvoltă o intensă activitate ziaristică la gazetele din București. Viitorul redactor al *Tribunei* vorbea fluent următoarele limbi: slovacă, română, cehă, rusă, sârbă, maghiară, germană și franceză, fapt care l-a determinat pe Eugen Brote să-l aducă în redacția *Tribunei* în anul 1893. Pe lângă o intensă activitate publicistică, până în anul 1897 Gustav Augustini îndeplinește și funcția de secretar al lui Ion Rațiu, președinte în acea perioadă al Partidului Național Român din Transilvania și Ungaria, redactorul slovac se implică în frământările politice ale națiunilor conlocuitoare din Monarhia Austro-Ungară. După activitatea redacțională de la *Tribuna* Sibiană, devine redactor la *Tribuna Poporului* de la Arad în perioada 1898-1900 **(Popovici**, **2008**, passim**)**.

În intervalul de timp cuprins între 1/13 noiembrie 1896 și 14/26 august 1897, redactor al *Tribunei* a fost **Teodor V. Păcăţian Milian.** A fost un publicist şi scriitor român, n. 28 nov. 1852 în Ususeu, în Banat. A urmat studiile la gimnaziul din Lugoj şi liceul din Arad. A redactat în Timişoara ziarul *Timişana,* mai târziu *Gazeta Poporului.* A scris un studiu despre *Catastru şi modul introducerii sale în România* (1895); *Flori de toamnă,* poezii (1882); *Lupta pentru dreptate,* după Jhering (1898); *Scopul în drept* după Jhering (1898); *Libertatea* după John Stuart Mill (1899); *Principiile politice,* dupa Holtzendorff (1899); *Judecătoriile cu juraţi* (1900); *Istoria politicei;* după Polock (1900); *Buna chiverniseală* (1900) *Sâmbăta morţilor*, dramă din popor, după Raupach (1900). În manuscris: *Dogmele dreptului*, 1 vol., şi *Cartea de aur*, 8 vol. A fost redactor și colaborator la mai multe foi româneşti, director la *Tribuna*, iar în (1902) al ziarului *Telegraful Roman* în Sibiu **(Diaconovich 1904**, p. 504**)**.

Trebuie specificat că după înaintarea Memorandumului către împărat (1894), din anul imediat următor, 1895, se prefigurează o schimbare a structurii redacționale a gazetei, *Tribuna* intrând de acum sub conducerea lui Ioan Rațiu, (etapa arădeană a *Tribunei).* După cum putem observa, Teodor V. Păcățian a fost printre ultimii redactori ai *Tribunei,* etapa sibiană. Este binecunoscut faptul că din 1896/97, se prefigurează o altă etapă a mișcării tribuniste, cea de la Arad, reprezentată de *Tribuna Poporului*. Încă din 1890 era prevăzut declinul ziarului sibian, *Tribunei* i s-au intentat multe procese de presă, (șapte procese). Mulți redactori s-au refugiat în România, iar punctul culminant al destrămării grupării tribuniste l-a constituit procesul Memorandumului din anul 1894. În această etapă secvențială a cercetării noastre, ne referim la cele două etape ale *Tribunei:* etapa sibiană (1884-1903) și etapa arădeană a *Tribunei Poporului* (1896/97-1912), deci constatăm că până la un anumit punct, activitatea *Tribunei* de la Sibiu a mers în paralel

cu noul coagulat grup al tribuniștilor de la Arad, care se considerau moștenitori ai primei generații de intelectuali care au îmbrățișat vederile *Tribunei* **(Popovici**, **2008**, pp. 81-198; 199-272**)**.

Alți redactori ai *Tribunei* au fost: Aurel Popa (1886-1887); Adrian Cașolțeanu (1887-1888); Andrei Balteș, redactor în perioada (1890-1893; 1895-1896; 1898-1901); Alexandru Dordea (1893-1894); Ioan Ciontea (1893-1894 și 1895-1896); Cornel Scurtu (1893-1894); Ioan Morariu (1897); Petru Simtion (1897-1898); L. L. Prașca junior (1901); Elie Alimănescu Băncilă (1901); George Mohan (1901-1902); Ioan E. Prodan (1902). Alături de aceștia, în redacția *Tribunei* au lucrat E. Dăianu (1903) și George Coșbuc (1886-1889) **(Popovici 2008**, passim**)**.

**George Coșbuc** (1866-1918), poet, a fost și redactor al cotidianului sibian în perioada (1886-1889). Își va semna articolele din *Tribuna* cu pseudonimul Boșcu (**Hangiu**, **1996**, pp. 477-478**)**. În anul 1884, își susține examenul de bacalaureat, iar în toamna aceluiași an se înscrie la Facultatea de Litere și Filosofie a Universității Maghiare din Cluj. Această universitate avea în acea perioadă și o catedră de limba română. A fost numit în comitetul *Societății Iulia* al studenților români, iar debutul editorial al poetului ardelean a început în anul 1884, moment când inițiază colaborarea la *Tribuna*. Din cauza sănătății precare și a dificultăților materiale, în anul 1886 nu mai figurează printre studenții clujeni. Poetul ardelean continuă colaborarea la *Tribuna*, publicând în paginile acesteia următoarele lucrări: *Atque nos*, *Fata craiului din cetini*, *Draga mamei*, *Dragoste păcurărească*. Însuși directorul cotidianului sibian, Ioan Slavici, merge personal la Cluj în anul 1887 pentru a-l coopta pe tânărul student în redacția *Tribunei*. După cum am menționat mai sus, George Coșbuc este redactor al *Tribunei* în perioada 1886-1889, alte surse indicându-l ca redactor între anii 1887-1889 **(Popovici**, **2008**, passim**)**.

În redacția *Tribunei*, a avut ocazia să lucreze alături de Ioan Slavici, I. Bechnitz, Septimiu Albini etc, toți reprezentanți ai tribunismului cu o serioasă și susținută cultură.

**Aurel Popa** este un alt redactor al *Tribunei* în perioada 1886-1887. Viitorul redactor al ziarului sibian s-a născut în Arpașul de Sus, Făgăraș și a fost profesor de liceu. Formarea profesională a fost determinată de studii de teologie la Sibiu și studii de literatură și filosofie la Cluj, având licențe în teologie și litere. A fost director al revistei *Facla* de la Oradea. La Sighișoara a fost profesor de religie și morală (profesor confesional). În anul 1916, pe fondul activității sale, a fost condamnat de autoritățile maghiare. Anul 1923 îi aduce funcția de profesor de limba română și filosofie la Oradea. Pe lângă activitatea didactică și editorială, Aurel Popa a avut și o intensă activitate politică, a fost în orașul Bihor șeful Partidului Național Creștin. A urcat în ierarhia socială, devenind prefect de Târnava-Mică în perioada 1926-1927 **(Predescu**, **1999**, p. 674**)**.

**Alexandru Dordea** (1863-1908) a fost un ziarist român. S-a născut în localitatea Vale din Sibiu, la 6 Ianuarie 1863. Moare la 14 Aprilie 1908, la București. A urmat pedagogia în cadrul seminarului teologic din Sibiu. Activitatea editorială a fost reprezentată de munca în redacția *Tribunei*. A intrat în redacția acestui ziar încă din anul 1886, pentru ca ulterior să ajungă redactor responsabil în perioada 20 aprilie 1893-16

octombrie 1894. Pe fondul activității gazetărești și în calitatea sa de redactor responsabil al *Tribunei,* a fost implicat în mai multe procese de presă, care în cele din urmă l-au determinat să se refugieze în București, ca alți tribuniști. În capitala României, la București, a ocupat postul de funcționar în cadrul Bibliotecii Academiei Române, de la 1 aprilie 1897, până la moartea sa, survenită în data de 14 aprilie 1908 **(Predescu, 1999**, pp. 282-283**)**.

Alți redactori care s-au succedat în redacția cotidianului sibian au fost frații **Cornel și Ion Scurtu**.

**Cornel Scurtu** (1868-1913) a fost un ziarist român, născut la 14 iunie 1868 în Brașov. A absolvit bacalaureatul, pentru ca apoi să-și continue formarea profesională urmând câțiva ani studii la Facultatea de Drept din București. Activitatea editorială a fost marcată de perioada când a lucrat în redacția *Gazetei de Transilvania* și a *Tribunei,* (redactor la *Tribuna* în perioada 1893- 1894). Ca majoritatea tribuniștilor, a migrat în București. Aici a colaborat la ziarul *Timpul* și la redacția ziarului *Universul.* Pe fondul unui duel pe care l-a avut cu un ziarist a fost închis 8 zile la Seghedin. Moare în anul 1913 **(Predescu**, **1999**, pp. 770**)**.

**Ion Scurtu** a fost scriitor și jurnalist, născut la Brașov în 17/29 martie 1877-moare în București la 23 iulie 1922. În localitatea unde tatăl său era profesor, a urmat liceul cu predare în limba română. Își continuă studiile la Universitatea din Budapesta, dar în cele din urmă le întrerupe pentru a trece redactor intern la *Tribuna.* Și acest redactor pleacă la București în calitate de ziarist, revenind după o perioadă de timp în Ardeal pentru a-și continua studiile la Universitatea din Cluj. În capitala culturală a Ardealului, la Cluj, a fost reprezentantul studenţimii şi s-a făcut remarcat prin gestul său: a avut curajul să încoroneze mormântul lui Avram Iancu. A fost condamnat la închisoare, iar după aceste evenimente a trecut a doua oară Carpații. Din capitala României pleacă la Leipzig, unde își ia doctoratul în litere, în anul 1902. După susținerea doctoratului, se reîntoarce la București, unde a fost numit profesor de limba română la Seminarul Central și la Școala Superioară de Război. Din activitatea sa publicistică, se poate observa că a dedicat numeroase articole lui Mihai Eminescu, publicate în: *Noua revistă română, Conservatorul, Semănătorul, Calendarul Minervei.* Din opera redactorului ardelean, putem aminti: *M. Eminescu´ s Leben und Prosascriften,* Leipzig, 1903; teza: *Portretele lui Eminescu,* București, 1903; *Geniu pustiu de Eminescu,* 1904; *Poeziile lui Eminescu,* ediție revizuită de I. Scurtu **(Predescu**, **1999,** pp. 770**)**.

### *Câteva lămuriri în loc de concluzii*

Pentru a finaliza investigația noastră istorică, dorim să aducem câteva lămuriri concluzive cu privire la importanța demersului biografico-intelectual pe care l-am întreprins în prezentul studiu. Reconstituirile biografice pe care le-am putut identifica și importanța mișcării tribuniste, descrise în actuala cercetare de istorie a presei și analiză comparată a implicării unuia sau altuia dintre redactorii cotidianului sibian, reprezintă încă o contribuție științifică pentru cunoașterea unui astfel de subiect, ca cel al

tribunismului. Tribunismul a reprezentat succesul junimismului în Transilvania, toți redactorii acestei gazete erau de acord cu promovarea Direcției Noi în Ardeal, dorind să se distanțeze de vechea tradiție latinistă, a etimologismului ciparian. Se dorea crearea unui alfabet pe înțelesul tuturor, dar obiectivul cel mai important al curentului tribunist a fost întoarcerea la popor, la oamenii de rând, promovând printe aceștia dragostea de cultură și iubirea valorilor naționale. Aici se poate observa latura culturală a *Tribunei.*

Contribuția politică a tribuniștilor trebuie analizată și explicată în contextul activității Partidului Național Român din Transilvania, majoritatea redactorilor ardeleni făcând parte din Comitetul Central Electoral (CCE) al PNR-ului, iar ziarul *Tribuna* a fost oficiosul Partidului Național Român, tribuna de la care în a doua jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea și începutul secolului XX, o serie întreagă de intelectuali-redactori au militat pentru recunoașterea drepturilor românilor din Monarhia Austro-Ungară.

Din redacția *Tribunei* de la Sibiu au făcut parte nume sonore ale culturii românești, printre care îi putem aminti pe: Ioan Slavici, frații Eugen și Aurel Brote, frații Tit Liviu Albini și Septimiu Albini, Ioan Bechnitz, Daniil Popovici Barcianu, George Coșbuc, Teodor V. Păcățian etc, toți cu o aleasă formare intelectuală în universitățile Monarhiei Dualiste Austro-Ungare, majoritatea tribuniștilor având definitivate studii în mediul german, la universități celebre (Viena, Berlin, Bonn, Lepzig, Jena, Heidelberg). Putem concluziona că o mare parte a redactorilor *Tribunei* provin din familii de ţărani înstăriți, preoţi, negustori, intelectuali, acest lucru marcând evoluţia lor culturală şi politică, obiective realizate şi pe un anumit fond genetic transmis de la părinţii lor. Trebuie specificat că intelectualii primei generaţii ai *Tribunei* au avut definitivate studii de profil la Institutul Teologic-Pedagogic din Sibiu. Fiind educaţi în spiritul moralei creştine, tribuniştii au îmbrăţişat formarea pedagogică şi teologică insuflată de Mitropolitul Andrei Şaguna.

Prin activitatea jurnalistică dezvoltată la *Tribuna,* Sibiul devine centrul care deţine monopolul presei social-politice, fiind din această perioadă tot mai vizibil pe scena publicisticii româneşti. Numeroasele tipografii apărute în Sibiu se datorează în special mediului cultural german care favoriza o activitate jurnalistică românească intensă. Putem conchide că prin demersurile lor jurnalistice, tribuniştii au făcut cunoscut Sibiul în plan socio-cultural şi politic, în acest oraş fiind cele mai intense contacte comerciale, iar toată activitatea editorială a redactorilor sibieni a venit pe fondul unei necesităţi de informare şi de cunoaştere a dezideratelor naţionale româneşti. Reiterând pregătirea şi experienţa lor prealabilă, putem afirma că primii redactori ai *Tribunei* au venit cu un bagaj editorial şi jurnalistic deja format, la care se adaugă experienţa dobândită la *Telegraful Român.*

Actuala abordare istorică consacrată redactorilor *Tribunei* sibiene se înscrie în categoria biografiilor seriale reconstituite prin metoda prosopografică. Seturile de biografii prezentate în actuala cercetare şi uşoara disproporţie a acestora se datorează lipsei de material bibliografic şi arhivistic despre unii tribuniști. Cu toate cercetările istoriografiei româneşti, unii redactori, chiar dacă au adus contribuţii importante culturii şi ziaristicii ardelene, reprezintă nume puţin cunoscute, acest demers venind, pe cât posibil, să reîntregească biroul redacţional al *Tribunei* din Sibiu. Prin cele relevate în

economia acestei lucrări, putem afirma că am evidențiat sub aspect biografico-intelectual contribuția gazetarilor români de la Sibiu, la dezvoltarea presei științifice din Transilvania repercutată atât prin activitatea lor cotidiană în cadrul redacției *Tribunei,* cât și prin sistemul de ramificații sociale pe care le aveau cu alte ziare și grupuri redacționale.

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