

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT

THE OPPOSITION WITHIN: ROMANIA AND THE CMEA EEC POLICY, 1957-1989

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

JANUARY 2020-APRIL 2020

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Financed by: The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Period: May 2018-April 2020

Host institution: University Valahia of Târgoviste, Romania, Faculty of Humanities

Project title: The opposition within: Romania and the CMEA EEC policy, 1957-1989

Project Acronym: OppWithin

Project code: PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2016-0184

Contract number: 42/2018

Team of the project:

Project leader: Dr. Elena Dragomir

Mentor: Prof. Univ. Dr. Hab. Silviu-Marian Miloiu

Project summary:

Addressing a gap in historiography, this project aims to investigate Romania's position and opposition regarding the CMEA EEC policy, between 1957 (when the EEC was established through the Treaty of Rome) and 1989 (when the socialist system in Romania collapsed). The project focuses, in equal measure, on instances when Romania agreed with the other members of the bloc, as well as on instances of opposition. Why Romania adopted a position or another? What tactics of opposition it used? Did Romania's EEC position within the CMEA change over time, and if so why and how? How influential was Romania's position on the overall CMEA EEC policy? Tackling such questions, the project traces the internal and external factors that provided the background for Romania's position: the Romanian-Soviet relations, EEC enlargement process, the East-West détente, the CMEA reformation, or the perestroika. Theoretically, this project challenges the traditional conceptual framework on Romania's opposition within the Eastern bloc, contributing to the development of a new theoretical approach. It operates with concepts as threats and perceptions, drawing from S. Walt's balance of threat theory (according to which states reacted to external threats) and using a perceptual approach (according to which state's behaviour is explained through the decision makers' perceptions and views). The hypothesis is that Romania opposed the CMEA EEC policy because it was perceived as threat to Romania's interests. Methodologically, the project fits into the New Cold War History paradigm, being multiarchival in approach and paying attention to the role of ideology (understood in a broad sense as views, system of beliefs, perceptions). Through its findings, the project contributes to the field of the studies on the CMEA-EEC relations and opens a new research perspective towards a comprehensive

view on Romania's foreign trade policy within the socialist bloc and towards the capitalist world.

3RD STAGE OF THE PROJECT: January-April 2020

A. Archive research:

- The Romanian National Central Archives, Bucharest, Romania
- The Diplomatic Archives of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bucharest, Romania

B. Literature review:

- Reviewing scientific literature with regard to the subject, theory and methodology of the project.

C. Papers published during the third stage of the project:

- Elena Dragomir, 'Opoziția din interior: România și politicile CAER față de CEE (1957-1989)' – volumul 2 (documente), Editura Cetatea de Scaun, Târgoviște, 2020, ISBN: 978-606-537-466-9.

7 April 2020

Elena Dragomir