

## SUMMARY

For many countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Romania included, the post-war period meant a detouring from the economic and social evolution which would have been natural in a democratic system, with a competitive decentralized economy, through the armed imposition of a socialist-Marxist dictatorial system, which aimed, since its setting up, to destroy private property (the basis of prosperity) and individual and group freedoms.

This is why, in the second half of the last century, the Romanian society accumulated a range of contradictions and imbalances which had dramatic effects on the standard of living of the population who, at the end of 1989, taking advantage of international opportunities, took on to a major option for its destiny and decided to adopt a new society, based on market economy, with a competitive market and a democratic political system.

In the period after December 1989, the concept of “transition” was and is still used very frequently in political terminology, in the media and in current speech. It was quickly adopted by economics, as usual references are made to post-socialist transition (as a transition from the hyper-centralized economy of socialism to the competitive market economy of capitalism); other types of transition undergone by mankind in its various evolution segments or phases are omitted.

However, this concept is too general, too ambiguous, even unclear, as it may have a wide range of meanings; as such, it creates confusion and becomes an easy way of manipulation in many cases. It is known, though, that a basic and fundamental requirement so that any notion or concept may serve to human communication is the clarity of definition, the concordance between reality and the terms used. This is why, before expressing opinions on transition or reform in Romania (without drawing an equality between the two terms) we may conclude that certain aspects regarding the meaning of such notions have to be taken into account, starting from the usual meanings thereof.

The title of the doctoral thesis ***“MACROECONOMIC AGGREGATES AND CORRELATIONS IN THE ROMANIAN REFORM PROCESS”*** may suggest that statistical and economic analysis is crucial for the success of research. A wider approach was, however, intended; therefore, the thesis is structured in three connected parts, for gradually dealing with highly complex phenomena and processes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> part, entitled ***“THE STAGE OF KNOWLEDGE: POST-SOCIALIST TRANSITION, TRANSFORMATION, REFORM, PRIVATISATION AND SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY”*** includes two chapters, as follows:

Chapter 1 – ***PROLEGOMENA OF THE ROMANIAN POST-SOCIALIST REFORM***, which analyses the transitions of the contemporary world (definition of transition, patterns of contemporary transitions, transition and change, distinctive features of the international environment of contemporary transitions), the analogical approach of the Romanian post-socialist transition (transition and reform – two approaches of the changes involved by the transition to a competitive market economy, three possible and useful analogies, analogies to Romanian transitions, the necessity of a general theory of transition from totalitarian economy to competitive

market economy) and the transition of the contemporary world to a new way of producing wealth (the polyvalence of the concept of new economy, informational society, a new way of creating wealth, from the informational society to the society of knowledge, the cosmopolitanism of the new economy in the globalised society. In the same context, a special attention is paid to property privatisation, as a central axis of post-socialist transition, focusing on the issues of privatisation in the reform period (privatisation being conditioned by the acuteness of crisis phenomena in the economic, social and political fields, governments' incapacity of ensuring development and fighting market imperfections, reconsidering the economic place of the state, a theoretical argument of the superiority of private property against public property, the strategic goal of property privatisation programmes, the development rhythm, conclusions for Romania), as well as to the scenario of a privatisation programme considered as ideal (the phases of such programme, the selection of public companies for privatisation, material and management privatisation, models and methods of material and management privatisation);

Chapter 2 – *COMPETITIVE, FUNCTIONAL AND SUCCESSFUL MARKET ECONOMY* – referring to the definition, characteristics, defining elements of competitive market economy and the types of economy with competitive market (transition from exchange economy to market economy, ways to define market economy, structural elements lying at the basis of competitive market economy, competitive market – a central element of modern successful economies, the listing of the main properties of competitive market economy, the concept of market, the functions of competitive market in modern economies, the theoretical system of competitive market economy, the real system of competitive market economy and types thereof, the market economy Romania is heading to);

The 2<sup>nd</sup> part, entitled “*THEORETICAL CONTRIBUTIONS: CONCEPTS, CORRELATIONS AND FUNDAMENTAL AGGREGATES IN COMPETITIVE ECONOMY*” is structured in two chapters, as follows:

Chapter 3 – *FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS AND CORRELATIONS IN MACROECONOMICS*, discussing the following: aggregated demand and aggregated offer of goods and services (analytic fundamentals of the aggregated demand and offer of goods and services, dependence of production and prices from the interaction of aggregated demand and aggregated offer), unemployment and unemployment rate (unemployment and unemployed, causes and types of unemployment, implications of allocations for unemployment on unemployment, measurement or evaluation of unemployment), inflation and inflation rate (causality in the inflationist process, implications of inflations in the current period, perfectly and imperfectly anticipated inflation, inflation, relative prices and economic cycles, monetary systems, currency systems and inflation control, indexation protection against inflation, inflation – a subject of vanguardist ideas in economy), economic growth and economic growth rate (main determinants of economic growth, theories on economic growth) and cyclical fluctuations and economic trend (cyclicity of economic evolution, measurement of cyclical fluctuations, indicators of cyclical fluctuations, prediction of economic cycles); references are made to the correlations between aggregated demand and aggregated offer, inflation and unemployment, economic growth, inflation and unemployment, on basis of the previously listed aspects.

Chapter 4 – *THE SYSTEM OF AGGREGATES OR INDICATORS USED IN MACROECONOMIC ANALYSIS*, which analyses the short-term statistical and economic indicators (short-term conjunctural indicators used in the European Union, the short-term index system used by the World Bank), the aggregates of the macroeconomic results specific to the National Accounting System (defining the aggregates of the results of economic activity in the NAS, factors influencing macroeconomic aggregates, methods of calculation of the main macroeconomic aggregates), monetary mass aggregates or aggregates of the money stock and influence of the variation of prices on economic aggregates of results;

The 3<sup>rd</sup> part, entitled “*STATISTICAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS: STRATEGIES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN POST-SOCIALIST ROMANIA*”, in two chapters, as follows:

Chapter 5 – *STRATEGIES IN THE REFORM PERIOD*, focusing on: the significant issues of post-communist evolution in Central and Eastern Europe, the contents of the Romanian strategy in the reform period, namely the starting point of transition – Romanian economy at the end of 1989 (the mechanism of operation of command economy, the stage of economic development at the end of 1989, economic contradictions and imbalances), Romania in the reform process – defining coordinates, medium-term development strategy for accession to the European Union (premises for the elaboration of the accession strategy, the fundamental issue of the medium-term development strategy for accession to the European Union, the national development plan of Romania in 2002-2005, the national programme of reforms 2007-2010);

Chapter 6 – *MACROECONOMIC DYNAMICS*: evolution of macroeconomic indicators in Romania in 1990-2004 and evolutions characteristic to the pre-accession period (2000-2006) and perspectives for 2010. In this context, the dynamics of the main macroeconomic aggregates in the first decade of transition was followed, up to the elaboration of quite coherent strategies for the reform process, followed by the short-term strategy and the national development plan aiming at ensuring the proper conditions for the accession to the European Union. Of course, dynamics superpose themselves to a certain extent, because transition and reform are continuous processes, not phased or fragmented. Certain aspects of the perspective until 2010 are presented, starting from the consideration that the current crisis will radically change the predictions and the strategies elaborated on basis thereof. In the short term we may consider, however, a certain inertial movement.

The paper ends with a range of final synthetic conclusions, also accompanied by some reflection issues. In the simplest meaning, as referring to the essential fields of life, transition refers to a transformation between one state to another, from a situation to another. Understanding transition in a terminological perspective also implies knowing the state or situation at the original moment, as well as a vision on the state or situation where it shall end, as the final point of any transition determines its purpose, the nature of its options, its means and ways of action.

In concrete terms, as shown by the experience and realities of the latest years, on basis of the analysis of the evolution of macroeconomic aggregates, transition represents a process or, more exactly, a range of dynamic processes, with different durations and intensities, depending on the field where they occur – politics, economy, social life, ethical behaviour, culture, education etc.

Moreover, the analysis of these processes underlines various and differentiated aspects or even a succession of interrelated transitions, such as: from a totalitarian system to a pluralist democracy and the state of law; from centralized, command economy to free competition market economy; from the single party to several parties; from a social structure generated by the preponderance of collective state ownership to a new structure of social and professional groups, stimulated, among others, by the reinforcement of private ownership; a transition to a new international division of work (a new world order) and, hence, a new place of national economy in regional and world economy; a transition to a new social behaviour of people and, consequently, to a new moral, in the background of the historical way of being and acting of the Romanian people.

Despite such nuances or analytical interpretations, it is real that the usual explanations for transition are incomplete. This is mostly due to the absence of a clear and direct characterisation of the type of society resulting from transition, that is the economic and social order which will be created in Romania after transition ends.

Of course, the process of reforms in Romania has included concerns and efforts for the elaboration of a general strategy. Such concerns and efforts have resulted in various projects on transition, as well as integration in European structures, government programmes and even programmes of political parties, in that they refer to viable reforms, proper for the Romanian society. However, one cannot say that, in the first years, transition was guided by a comprehensive, substantiated and rigorously elaborated strategy. On the contrary, if analysing the succession in which certain measures important for the reform process were implemented (liberalisation of prices in relation with the removal of subsidies, correlation of economy restructuring with privatization, even the privatization strategy, conceived by a government and necessarily corrected by another one), we shall notice serious lacks in the establishment of priorities, in ensuring a coherence required by economic and social realities, that is, shortcomings regarding the strategy itself.

The economic development of a country in a certain period or the state of the national economy at a given moment can only be appreciated through the level of its quantitative, qualitative and structural performances. They are properly (satisfactorily) quantified by means of a complex systems of indicators, which are calculated, above all, at a macroeconomic level (and at the level of other organizational structures as well). However, indicators are the concrete expression of fundamental economic concepts with various forms of manifestation. Indicators form a coherent system, which is why, for the appreciation of economic performances, they must be analysed and regarded in correlation, generating a system of correlations which has to comply with certain coordinates, in order to decide that an economy is successful and operational.