

**European knowledge society – economic,
social and juridical perspectives**

The publication of a scientific paper stirs up both a lot of interest and rivalry. Should the topic be of a great concern, then the desire to purchase and study the paper appears. This is what the *Societatea europeană a cunoașterii* volume undoubtedly brings up, after being published by the prestigious Romanian Academy Publishing House.

The authors, well-known for competence and expertise in this field of study, including at *Spiru Haret* University – where they are also highly appreciated and prized professors, students and master students –, resume their attempt to highlight the defiance, the real and virtual hindrances of the contemporary society (and not only) from the European objectives included in the Lisbon Strategy. Moreover, they recommend realistic and pertinent measures to be taken, in order to provide performance at the structural and institutional level, able to trigger top research development in the knowledge avant-garde.

As the authors believe, the institutional structures should capitalize on the potential, the ability of approach and operationalization of new research areas, via a constant and fruitful dialogue with diverse sectors of the scientific community, along with the effort to connect the research and research financing to major topics, for a future development of humankind; to prove flexibility, in order to avoid the strict division of the structures, thus fostering the inter-disciplinarity, along with the forms of institutional dialogue within the research endeavor; the expertise, level of training for the researchers, which ensures the successful dissemination of knowledge and competence derived from top research; the degree of cooperation with the international research communities, similar in status, which will stimulate competition.

The final part of the volume examines major issues, relevant for the European Union enlargement and the shortcomings in the economy of the future. Thus, the computer-based knowledge society is perceived as a vital evolution, in order to provide a sustainable durable development, able to offer mainly intensive intellectual products and activities as an axiomatic prerequisite of the advanced social and human civilization.

The knowledge society means more than the progress of technology and of the computer and information applications, as it also involves the *economic* dimension (the development of new paradigms of the digital economy and the latest knowledge economy, innovation, entrepreneurial and managerial culture, education for the citizen and the consumer), *legal* (the reassessment of concepts such as informatics law, copyright, electronic signature, data legal protection, regulation of the legal framework in the economic and social fields), *social* (the

impact on health care, solidarity and social protection, labor and labor market, continuous education and training, etc.), *environmental* (the re-interpretation of the issues of using the environment resources and protection) and *cultural* (preservation and development of the national and international cultural patrimony, promotion of the cultural pluralism, the need for protecting the minor children, development of the multimedia industry and the production of an informational content).

In light of the above, the reviewed paper aims a tri-dimensional approach: economic, legal and social, targeting both research in the economic, legal and social fields, private and state, companies, managers, students and all interested people in grasping the concept and role of the knowledge society in general and the European knowledge society in particular, which may not be looked at unless considering the complexes of the pluridisciplinary valences.

I truly believe that the Romanian reconstruction, smartly designed on medium- and long-term, may bring on the fundamental change that underlies this transition: the shift from the *institutional center of knowledge society that is specific to the industrial society* (company), to the *institutional center of the knowledge society*, the research school and institute, which does not anymore act from 'outside' the productive system, but as endogenous factors of the production process. This shift will trigger other social changes, such as: the promotion of the 'new intellectual elite', researchers, technology creators, managers, teachers, IT staff, as main social and professional groups in the emergent knowledge society, with a focus on the knowledge about the human and social capital, as a main resource of the knowledge society and as an element of power that provides the fair distribution of resources and the mobility of labor factor.

Of course that the generalization of the IT technologies use, communications at the society level, accomplishing the real reform in education that will impose the acquisition of solid knowledge by continuous learning, a new condition of the scientific research as a highly lucrative sector focused on fundamental research, all these may be comprehended as measures to carry out this shift.

But, above all, it is crucial to be understood, for the decision-making factors in politics and economy and the individuals, the complexity of the time we are going through that inflicts a series of constraints, whose answer is to be found in the *advancement of knowledge*. This is why any study that contributes to the understanding of the complexity of present times, the shifts taking place and clears up the latest concepts that define the phenomena and processes specific to this window in time and helps grounding the active role of school and scientific research as institutions of governing and development of the Romanian society is a step forward to the *knowledge society*.

It is worthwhile mentioning the lobby of the authors in favor of adopting a competitive thinking and attitude in various fields, while the trend is towards a harmonious and complete development of the economic, social, political and of safety relations worldwide. This approach is known to involve changes and global harmonization in the legal area – and the conclusion is that their quick implementation, as shown in the Lisbon Strategy, is the key element and also the

foundation upon which the expected and desired optimism is being built. The purpose, novelty and the utility of the present volume lies in its essence itself, as scrutinised in great detail and professionalism by its authors.

Upon considering the topic's present interest and importance, the scientific level of writing, competence and acuity of the future evolution review, I thus reckon that the Publishing House should deliberate on having this volume translated into the French and English languages. Likewise, I do hope that the scientific, academic and university experts will reward the superior skills and more than generous effort put into by the above authors.

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