INDEX OF SATISFACTION OF ROMANIA'S INTEGRATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. STATISTICAL RESEARCH ON FIVE TARGET GROUPS IN THE WESTERN AREA OF ROMANIA

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Abstract: *In our statistical research we have proposed to make an assessment of the satisfaction of the population from the time of accession to the European Union. We mention that we considered five target groups, namely: students from West University of Timisoara; students from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara; resident doctors; top management and employees from companies in the western area of the country. Consequently, an interpretation of the conclusions of our research at national level should be made with caution. As regards the integration and future of Europe, there is a diversity of opinions. Some insist on promoting unity in diversity, contending that "the European community cannot be conceived beyond strict objectives, the realization of which is the very reason of being its existence" (Manolache, 1995). There are two extremes: (a) The Union is a federation of nation-states, and therefore the construction cannot overlap with a federal ideal (Kahn, 2008); (b) federalization is the Union's perspective because "federalism now seems the only form of social organization that can guarantee the preservation of national and regional identity in harmony with the requirements of independence and globalization" (Sidjanski, 2010). We note that some consider federalism to be an idealistic goal (Kahn, Rosamond), others consider federalism to be a necessity (Sidjanski), and others appreciate that "federalism represents the philosophy, functionalism is the stage method" (Ion, 2013). There are opinions that proclaim the end of the West and of United Europe. "The European Union is a grandiose and debilitating project at the same time. Compared to well-defined national identities, European identity is very diffuse "(Boia, 2013). As far as we are concerned, we believe that the European Union's integration process must continue, an opinion stemming from our previous research (Duță, 2017). Starting from the hypothesis that the population's perception of European integration is a signal that the theoretical assumptions cannot discard, we have proposed a statistical survey on five target groups in the western area, limiting only one criterion, the satisfaction of integration. The methodology used was presented in our paper "The European Index. Statistical survey on five target groups"(Duță, 2017). Key words: the perception of decisions taken in Brussels; the perception of the bureaucracy of European Union legislation; the perception of discrimination of less developed countries within the European Union; index of integration satisfaction; identity of a European citizen.*

Keywords: *index of EU integration; EU; European Union; Romania; Statistics; Research; perception.*

JEL Classification: *F02.*

1. Introduction

The objectives of research: the perception of decisions taken in Brussels; the perception of the bureaucracy of European Union law; perception of discrimination of less developed countries within the European Union. Of course there are several criteria and therefore the conclusions of our statistical research must be interpreted in the strict register of those listed.

Sample Structure: A total of 1000 questionnaires were distributed, validated were 800, 80%, which we consider to be good. The profile of the statistic population with valid answers is the one in table number 1.

Table no. 1. Sample's structure

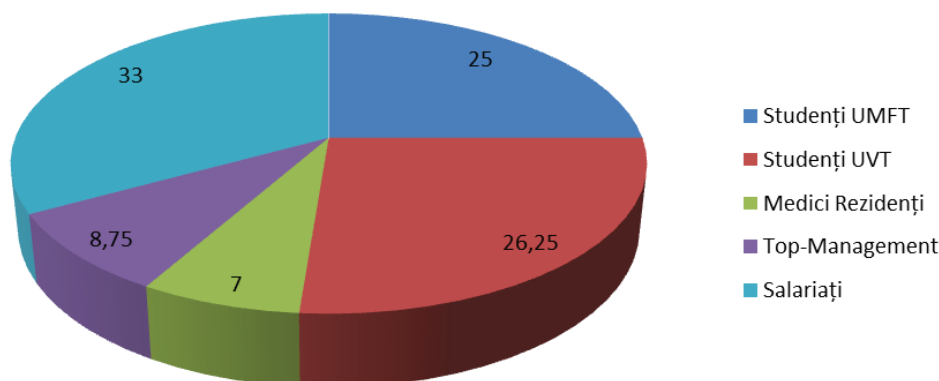| Total respondents	UMF Students	UVT Students	Resident doctors	Top-management	Employees
800	200	210	56	70	264

Figure no. 1. Sample's representativeness

Calculation relation used is:

$$n = \frac{t^2 \times p \times q}{e^2} = \frac{t^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2}$$ – extracting the sample with 95%probability,

where:

n – the size of the sample;

t - statistical coefficient corresponding to the confidence level considered (t = 1,96 corresponding to a confidence level of 0,95 in the statistical tables);

p - the frequency of occurrence of the phenomenon studied in the sample (we consider p = 0.50 for a dispersion with the maximum possible value);

q = 1 - p = 1 - 0.50 = 0.50

e - allowed tolerance margin. For an error margin of ± 5% we have e = ± 0,05.

In our case

$$n = \frac{1,96^2 \times 0,5 \times (1-0,5)}{0,05^2} = 384,16 \text{ respondents.}$$

Therefore our sample is statistically representative.

2. The conclusions of the research

Conclusion 1: The population perceives decisions taken in Brussels to a low level.

Table no. 2. The perceptions of the decisions taken in Bruxelles

Respondent category	Awarded mark					Scoring
	1	2	3	4	5	
1.UMFT Students	40	100	60	-	-	420
2.UVT Students	30	110	50	20	-	480
3.Resident doctors	-	20	30	6	-	154
4.Top-management	10	20	40	-	-	170
5.Employees	-	60	154	50	-	782
Total	80	310	334	76	-	2006
						800
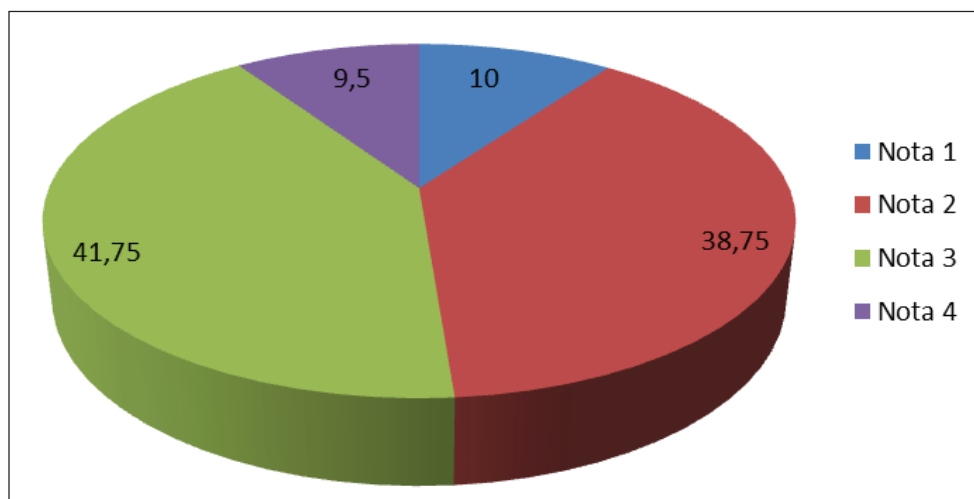
Figure no. 2. The perceptions of the decisions taken in Bruxelles

Table no. 3. Statistical indicators

Indicators	$\overline{m}$	σ	v
Value	2,132	0,855	40%

Table no. 4. The level of average value on our sample structure

Total	UMFT Students	UVT Students	Resident doctors	Top-management	Employees
2,132	2,10	2,285	2,75	2,42	2,204

The answers to the question how are perceived the decisions from Brussels by studied sample of population are more scattered (proof of variation coefficient, v = 40%), but they are below average. The perception is that decisions taken in Brussels do not always seem to be favourable to Romania. Perhaps this perception is generated by political disputes.

The average of 2,132 is close to the minimum quarter, which means a "reserve" to the objectivity of the decisions in Brussels.

Since all target groups are on the lowest quarter, we tend to believe that the population is dissatisfied with some "behaviors" of decision-makers in Brussels. It is the poorest indicator.

Conclusion 2: The population perceives bureaucracy of EU legislation to a low to very low level.

Table no. 5. The perception of the bureaucracy of EU legislation

Respondent category	Awarded mark					Scoring
	1	2	3	4	5	
1.UMFT Students	50	120	60	-	-	380
2.UVT Students	60	140	50	-	-	370
3.Resident doctors	-	30	30	6	-	144
4.Top-management	20	30	40	-	-	140
5.Employees	-	100	154	64	10	776
Total	130	420	334	70	10	1810
						800
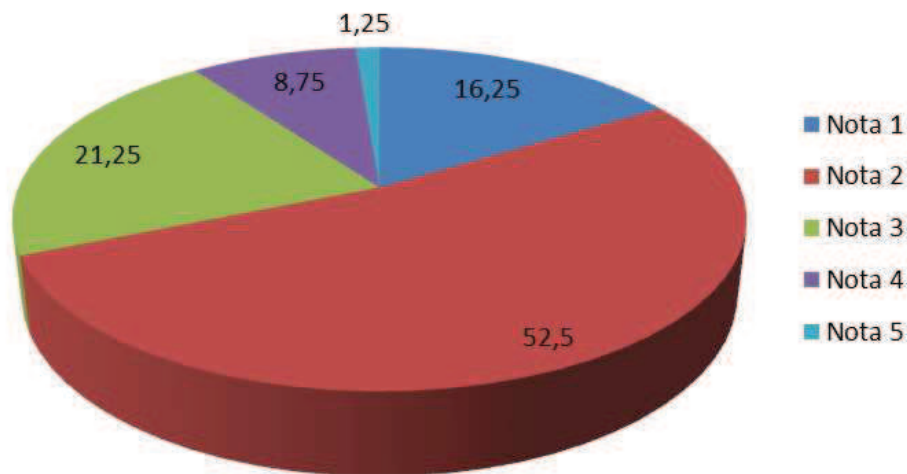
Figure no. 3. The perception of the bureaucracy of EU legislation

Table no. 6. Statistical indicators

Indicators	$\overline{m}$	σ	v
Value	2,26	0,876	38,7%

Table no. 7. The level of average value on our sample structure

Total	UMFT Students	UVT Students	Resident doctors	Top-management	Employees
2,26	1,900	1,761	2,57	2,00	2,93

The perception of bureaucracy correlates positively with the perception of decisions, which makes us believe that this is reality.

Conclusion 3: Population perceives discrimination at an average level.

Table no. 8. Perception of discrimination of less developed countries

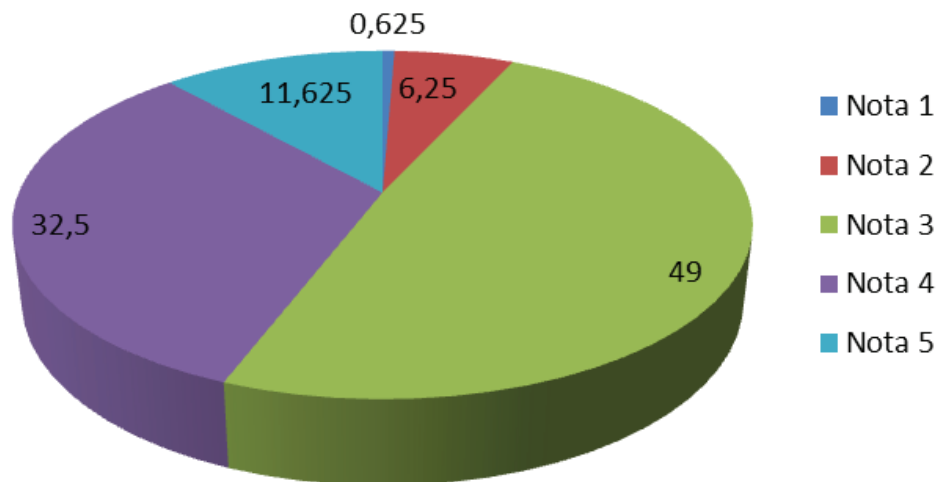| Respondent category	Awarded mark					Scoring
	1	2	3	4	5	
1.UMFT Students	-	10	80	100	10	710
2.UVT Students	-	20	100	70	20	720
3.Resident doctors	5	10	41	-	-	148
4.Top-management	-	10	50	10	-	210
5.Employees	-	-	121	80	63	998
Total	5	50	392	260	93	2786
						800

Figure no. 4. Perception of discrimination of less developed countries

Table no. 9. Statistical indicators

Indicators	$\overline{m}$	σ	v
Value	3,482	0,802	23%

Table no. 10. The level of average value on our sample structure

Total	Students UMFT	Students UVT	Medicine residents	Top-management	Salaried
3,482	3,55	3,428	2,64	3,00	3,78

The variation coefficient of 23% confirms the homogeneity of the sample and the statistical validation.

The average of 3,482 places us in the medium quarter for the better. This means that at least the sample surveyed by us does not consider that the less developed countries are discriminated.

If we correlate the overall average with the average of the structures, we notice a certain concentration of responses. Exceptions are made by resident doctors who, naturally, feel injured

3. Conclusion

The general conclusion is that the satisfaction perception index of Romania's integration into the European Union is 2,624, slightly higher than the average.

$$I = (2.132 + 2.26 + 3.482) / 3 = 2.624$$

Compared to the Eurobarometer of specialized institutions, the results of our research fall within the margin of error. An appreciation above the average of satisfaction of integration, we believe, reflects the profile of the five target groups studied by us.

Compared to the index of the perception of the opportunity of Romania's accession to the European Union, the satisfaction index is lower, 2,624 versus 4,60. (7). The cause consists in the fact that the majority consider the population adherent, but the satisfaction of the accession diminished over time. As a general appreciation, compared to the perception of the population from other European countries, the perception of the five target groups we consider is above average in the quarter, which means that the European Union remains an option for most Romanians.

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