



2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion



Source: <http://ec.europa.eu>

17 million euro for 17% of the EU population

Every year, starting with 1983 the Community institutions pointed their attention towards a specific theme, the last five years being focused on the social agenda of the European Union.

After 2007, the year of equal opportunities, 2008, the year of intercultural dialogue and 2009, the year of creativity and innovation, it comes the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion, having as a motto: Stop poverty now!

The latter aims at raising awareness upon the causes and consequences of poverty in Europe, both at the level of key actors, i.e. the governments and social partners and at the level of public. Amongst these it envisages mobilising different partners in the fight against poverty, promoting integration and social inclusion.

The actions accomplished under the aegis of this year will be decentralised in 29 national programmes (EU 27, Norway and Island), whilst a budget of 17 million euro will support the raising awareness campaign and the European and national projects.

In addition, the European Social Fund provides annually 10 billion euro within the Union for projects that envisage the growth of employment for excluded groups.

For more details on the 2010 European year click on:
<http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/opencms/?langid=en>

For a snapshot on poverty in EU in 2010, see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?angId=en&catId=89&newsId=693&furtherNews=yes>

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Why must we use the hyphen when writing in Romanian **acquis-ul, bleu-ul, story-ul**, but not for **clickul, itemul, trendul, weekendul**? Let us open the new dictionary at letter **A**, insert **Articolul hotărât [The Definite Article]** ... [Read more on page 5](#)

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DRAGOȘ PÎSLARU

General Manager, GEA Strategy & Consulting

I doubt that anyone is expecting a miraculous transformation of the European area in just a decade

The working document regarding the future "EU 2020" Strategy talks about the passage to a "new, sustainable social market economy, a more intelligent and more ecological economy". What do you think "a social market economy" means for the European citizens?

The new strategic document proposed for consultation contains an abundance of adjectives describing the proposed economic development. Along those already mentioned in the question, there are also aspirations to reach a "competitive", "connected" or "inclusive" economy. Such stylistic exercises, probably intended to bring the economic vision closer to the citizens' understanding creates, at the same time, an important degree of confusion. The art of reaching compromises is culminating, in order to allow all Member States to be represented, regardless of their doctrinary inclination. Great Britain can be identified by the proposed stimulation of the creative industries and of entrepreneurial activities, France can relax considering that there is a clear mention of subsidies and loans, Germany finds its social support mechanisms and the Northern states are enjoying the greenest strategy the EU has ever had. However, the questions that remain are the same as 10 years ago when the Lisbon Agenda was launched: how can all these objectives be reached simultaneously? Which will be the equilibrium between the State and the market? How can the Nordic model be brought together with the Mediterranean one? Without offering clear answers to this kind of questions, all we have is a new hat on the same Union.

Although it does not provide explicit deadlines for the reforms, can we consider the working document regarding "EU 2020" as the EU's strategy to overcome the economic crisis?

President Barroso presented on 11 February 2010, during an informal reunion of the European Council, three scenarios for 2020's Europe, according to the economic development trajectory: strong recovery, slow recovery or a lost decade. Obviously, EU's challenge, which is stated in the proposed consultative document, is that of strong recovery, so that the economic relaunch allows not only to overcome the crisis, but also to move onto a new paradigm based on sustainable growth. At the level of intention, the strategic objectives seem clear, but it is less clear whether they can be implemented.

Do you estimate that the time limit defined in the new strategy draft is a realistic one, taking into account the priorities (growth based on knowledge, as a value generating factor, the development of competences within companies which are favourable to inclusion, the creation of a competitive, connected and greener economy) defined in the document?

Any strategy must be ambitious. You can not have a strategy proposing only circumstantial measures. But apart from the inspirational role of the strategic proposition, there is a feeling of déjà vu, keeping in mind that a decade ago it was said that by this year, the EU should have become the most competitive economy based on knowledge in the

world. This objective would not have been reached even if there had not been a crisis. The Lisbon Agenda had its good parts and bad parts, but it suffered the shortcomings of a weak implementation mechanism, largely based on the open coordination mechanism which started from the selfresponsibility of the Member States. For the new strategy, a stronger governing system, with an increased role of the Council and of the Parliament is envisaged. However, I doubt that anyone is expecting a miraculous transformation of the European area in just a decade. It would be more important to set a solid fundament for a further horizon of development.



The estimates in an EC report on the employment situation in the European Union, issued at the end of 2009, indicate for 2010 an unemployment rate of two figures and the "EU 2020" draft strategy provides as a solution to this challenge "the development of competences in societies favourable to inclusion" – the development of new competences being an essential element in a society which will offer more jobs for greater adapting abilities. How far is Romania from such a societal model?

Indeed, for 2010 an unemployment rate of 10.3% is being discussed, which means going back to the high rates of the '90s. More concerning is that the unemployment rate among the youth is 21%, which raises serious questions regarding the correlation between the training and the labour market. From this point of view, the proposed strategic solution, to emphasize the creation of competences, is adequate and welcomed. It remains, though, to be seen how will an equilibrium be found between the policies which encourage the flexibility and the adjustment of the labour force and those offering the protection of the jobs. This issue is acutely felt in Romania also, where the employers and employees are engaged in a permanent dispute on the flexibility or protection offered by the Labour Code. The emphasis on acquiring competences seems to be precisely the neutral area where consensus can be built, given the fact that both parties have to gain from emphasizing more the good quality training. It is true that the new concept of flexicurity does not convince me, both from the point of view of the sound of this motley linguistic association and from the semantic point of view. It is easy to create an oxymoron by joining two opposite meanings, but this does not solve the conflictual nature of interests on the labour market. Europe has anyhow a problem in what concerns mobility and this goes against the proposed ideals of flexibility. Besides the type of regulation which is chosen, there is a need for a new mentality, for receptivity for a true and thorough free movement of persons, without nationalist double standards.

Interview by **Iulia Serafimescu**

A new year with new training programmes at EIR

The beginning of 2010 brought changes in the training offer of the European Institute of Romania. In January the first session of the certified training programme on **Project management** took place. This programme represents the continuation of the cooperation started at the end of last year with the *Association for the Adult Professional Training (AAPT)*.

The certified programme for the project manager profession took place between *21 and 30 January* (five days with a total of 40 hours of training) at the EIR's conference room. The programme focused particularly on the management of the European projects with non-refundable funds, the main objectives being: acquiring knowledge for articulating and substantiating the project and the skills for drawing up the financing application, acquiring key knowledge for managing a project, understanding the project cycle management, developing the ability to draw up and implement a project financed with non-refundable European funds.

The course was designed for the staff of the central and local public administration, enterprisers, business development managers, human resources managers, investment specialists, financial managers wishing to learn about the particularities of the EU non-refundable funds and how they can be accessed and managed.

Thus, among the participants there were both representatives of public institutions such as the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport, National Environmental Protection Agency, The Authority for State Assets Recovery, National Children's Palace and participants from the private sector- Kraft, S.C. Handor Management Consulting, Hadras Consult, SC. INTRAROM SA.

The course consists of the following modules:

- **financing opportunities** using non-refundable European funds;
- **essentials of project management:** identification of financing needs, the logical framework, project planning, time management, project human resources management, quality management, risk management, communication management, management of the project results;
- **drawing up the financing application** for the programmes with non-refundable funds – defining the objectives and target group, identifying and planning the activities, establishing the project team, drawing up the budget, the cost-benefit analysis;
- **implementation of the financed projects** – relevant legislation, financing contract, organisation and execution of the project activities, project financial management, progress monitoring, assessment and reporting, human resources management, information and publicity, public procurement process.

The course ended with an examination which consisted of a theoretical test (multiple choice test for assessing the knowledge acquired) and a practical test (drawing up and presentation of a project for assessing the acquired skills). After passing this examination, the participants received a professional certificate in project management which is recognised by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection.

The next session will take place during 22-27 February.

Another novelty regards the already classic **General training programme in European Affairs** which is now organised in its new version as a training programme certified by the National Council for Adult Vocational Training (NCAVT) under the heading **Civic and social competences**. We would also like to state that this programme is for the first time organised on demand for the *National Agency for Educational and Vocational Training Community Programmes*



(*NAEVTCP*), an institution under the coordination of the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport.

The two sessions which will take place at the location of NAEVTCP are scheduled to be organised during 3-7 May and 31 May-4 June. Thus, the programme is one day longer in order to have a total of 40 hours of training.

As regards the structure and the trainers, the programme keeps the same classic structure of the certified programme. Thus, the course includes the following modules: EU institutions and decision-making processes, EU legal system, the changes brought by the Treaty of Lisbon as regards the 3rd pillar justice and home affairs, environmental policy, social policy and employment policy, EU internal market, economic and social cohesion policy, economic and monetary union, EU budget. Considering the area of activity of NAEVTCP, there will also be a component concerning the educational issues in an European context.

Due to the excellent performance and the feedback received from the participants, the training team of the previous years is the same:

- **Florin Bonciu** – PhD, University Professor at the Faculty of Studies of the European Economic Integration, Romanian-American University, Bucharest;
- **Sorin Cace** – PhD in sociology and economics, University Professor, scientific researcher at the Research Institute for the Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Bucharest;
- **Mihaela Dumitrescu** – Senior Trainer in European Affairs and Structural funds with emphasis on the institutional framework and policies of the European Union;
- **Mihaela Luțaș** – PhD, University Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Management, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca;
- **Rodica Stănescu** – PhD Eng. at the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Material Science, Politehnica University of Bucharest;
- **Simina-Elena Tănăsescu** – PhD, University Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest, member of the Superior Council of Magistracy.

The examination will include a multiple choice test and, after passing the test, the participants will receive a certificate of common competences. The information regarding the sessions of this programme open for the general public will soon be published on EIR website. We would like to reaffirm the EIR's availability to deliver on demand training programmes, according to the needs of the beneficiaries.

The genuine EU Avatar – gate strategy towards the 22nd century

Worries

The consultation process on “some suggested broad policy considerations” for the successor to the current Lisbon Strategy is over. The EU 2020 Strategy appears as a two-term programme with a short-sighted vision. Remedies to cure current condition are not there. The crisis consequences are considerable. Alike are the detrimental effects of the Swiss voting on minarets. In spite of everything, the EU is back in business as usual. Prevention mechanisms are insufficiently considered. We are not learning enough.

According to the EU 2020 Strategy, its objective is a new sustainable social market economy, a smarter, greener economy, focusing on:

- creating value by basing growth on knowledge,
- empowering people in inclusive societies,
- creating a competitive, connected and greener economy.

First of all, what if “a sustainable social market economy”, (“highly competitive”, according to the treaties, not “sustainable”), proves to be a utopia in the long run? The European social policies are costly, thus limiting competitiveness in the short run and affecting sustainability. Irrefutably, the emerging economies are taking over and prepare their domination. A longer European perspective should help in planning and acting wisely and cautiously.

Secondly, “creating value by basing growth on knowledge”, resembles too much to the unfortunate objective of the Lisbon Strategy, of making the EU “the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world” and might end in the same way. The EU needs to be able to create value under severe strains, which lately it didn’t, and then to base its growth on knowledge, which is also questionable since the research area is not advancing as expected.

Thirdly, “empowering people” is a coin with two faces. The ugly one has been recently exposed by the Swiss in a misdirected burst of electoral pique, banning the construction of new minarets across Switzerland. A developed country that speaks proudly of its reputation for tolerance takes steps backwards. *How would the EU avoid such a path with its current or proposed policies?* A new thinking and a fresh approach are required. Enhanced information and empowerment of the populations could generate positive emulations, provided that detrimental cultural heritage is filtered.

A real strategy should represent much more, both in vision, time horizon and their reflection. The message has to be simple, clear, and easy to understand and to remember, since it requires the public’s support. It’s not the case of the EU 2020. The language and its meanings are not intended for public use. They aim more to project an image and to generate a political impulse. If the access to information is faulty or denied, the support of the population becomes worrying, undermining the political efforts. The national referenda and the constitutional deadlock have proven it.

The EU 2100 Strategy

Legitimate expectations of the EU inhabitants require strategic thinking and actions to channel the diversity of policy options and to promote rewording reforms. Systemic and deep-rooted flaws divert the European attention from things that matter, dilute major interests and impede consensus reaching. There is too much a variety of views and the forces are drifting. As well, populations’ support is obscure.

EU needs a life-time horizon to reinvent itself, reshape humans and heal societal and institutional structures in which they operate. The objective would be to make the world a better place to live and work. Accordingly, a *EU 2100 Strategy*¹ is being proposed, serving as gateway towards a globalized, cooperative and friendly world. The passage from domination and exercise of force, to global governance, force of arguments and principles, is smooth and deliberate. This is the genuine *Avatar*², the virtual projection that we are seeking for. It promotes a comprehensive approach based on the following three pillars:

- *Humans and Humanity*, addressing Economy, Society and Well being;
- *Environment*, aiming to Clean environment and Energy resources;
- *Interactions*, Terrestrial and Cosmic.

These matters are clear, simple and long-lasting. Such an approach would serve as a good example of “how policy-making would relate to EU citizens”³, by facilitating their participation in essential decision-making for the future they really want.

The EU 2100 Strategy should be brought into being soon. All that matters is to have solid basis set now, within the current term of office. Essential benchmarks and development stages, such as EU 2020 or Well being 2030, need to be introduced, further improved and a comprehensive approach eventually built. A lucid anticipation of the world’s future would credit a more intensive collaboration between EU and member states.

Rationalization

The time horizon to plan and act should match the scale of responsibility and serve policy-making. EU has been created to generate business opportunities and to foster development, improving its future prospects. And this is what EU does, leaning towards „an ever greater market”. Still, “an ever closer union of people” remains far away. Things have to change. The *EU Avatar* could become the European tool towards “better societies” in which “citizens can lead fulfilling lives”. The primary purpose of the economy - to improve people’s quality of life, would be reinforced.

Iulian Oneașcă

¹ Oneașcă, I, *The quest for the Golden Fleece of a changing Union, presentation held at the 2nd Turkey-Europe Forum, “European Integration and Turkey”, 10-12 December 2009, Mardin, Turkey.*

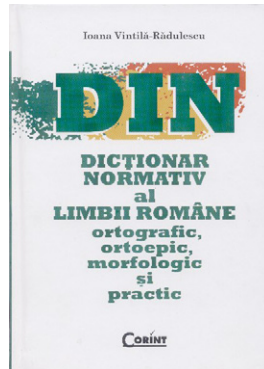
² The Sanskrit noun *avatāra* is derived from the verbal root *tṛ* “to cross over”, combined with the prefix *ava* “off, away, down”. An **avatar** is also a computer user’s representation of himself/herself or alter ego (Wikipedia).

³ Well-being 2030 Project.

Ioana Vintilă-Rădulescu, **Dicționar normativ al limbii române (DIN). Ortografic, ortoepic, morfologic și practic [Normative Dictionary of the Romanian Language. Orthographic, orthoepic, morphologic and practical]**, Corint Publishing House, Bucharest, 2009, 895 p.

A DICTIONARY OF TODAY'S LANGUAGE for TODAY'S READER

Why must we use the hyphen when writing in Romanian **acquis-ul, bleu-ul, story-ul**, but not for **clickul, itemul, trendul, weekendul**? Let us open the new dictionary at letter **A**, insert **Articolul hotărât [The Definite Article]** and we will find the justification for the rule.



Mr Marius Sala, Member of the Romanian Academy, notes in the **Foreword** that this is a "different kind of dictionary", "a much more detailed work" which "comprises various very useful collateral information which are impossible or at least hard to find in other sources, presented all in one place, or even separately". Although it observes the academic standards, the dictionary has a different structure, "sometimes closer to the habits of school practice".

The new dictionary, of impressive dimensions, is the work of a sole author, Ioana Vintilă-Rădulescu, PhD, a prestigious lexicologist in the Romanian linguistics, coordinator of the second edition of DOOM [The Orthographic, Orthoepic and Morphologic Dictionary] (2005).

The information enclosed is the classical information, of linguistic nature (orthoepy, orthography, morphology) which is systematised in this kind of works, as well as information of practical nature. This is ensured by inserts, by the rapid consultation method and by the explanations accompanying the standards. The two branches complete each other in an original structure which makes the dictionary a complex, normative and practical instrument which addresses the need to find the information at the right place and not in a long preface "which few of the users of the dictionary would read thoroughly" (as in the DOOM).

Two statements in the introduction, fully sustained by the modern structure of the dictionary, invite the public to meditate:

- "Reading through these sections, one is surprised, even as a linguist, by the little expected complexity of the problems";
- The dictionary "joins not only the books on the first shelf of the library but also those on the desk and – why not? – even those on the night table".

NOVELTIES OF THE DICTIONARY

Considering the two reference normative works of the Institute of Linguistics "Iorgu Iordan – Al. Rosetti" of the Romanian Academy, DEX and DOOM, the contribution of the new dictionary to establish the standards of the current language is pointed out.

Although it is an unseen feature, one of the most important operations expected for such a dictionary is the elimination of some rare, regional and obsolete words or of certain variants (which burden

the DEX and the DOOM with an useless ballast), for example: *fleacăni, flenduros, fleoș, fleuretis* (Fr.), *flexibil* (n.s.), *flibusterie* (rare), *flibustier* (rare), *flis, flit* (regional), *floarea-brumei, floarea-doamnei, gură-căscată* (plant), *gurăi* (verb, rare), *gurguia* (obsolete) etc.

There is a strong tendency towards enrichment in the dynamics of the current language, therefore the dictionary records new entries such as: **activism, bioclimatic, biocombustibil, biodiesel, bioetică, cafeterie** (local), **diuretic, filisteană** (ethnic name), **flex, glasnost** (historical), **nosocomial** ("of or related to the hospital") etc.

We notice that DIN recommends as correct forms words written as in the source language. Thus we will find numerous words borrowed from English: **flier** [although the word used in English with this meaning is **flyer**], **flipchart, login** (IT), **USB** ("memory stick", Engl. "Universal Serial Bus"; plural USB-uri). There are also words kept in the French writing: **gourmet** ("who knows how to appreciate food, wine") or the Italian writing – **amoroso** (musical term), **carpaccio** (culinary). The dictionary also introduces Latin expressions, such as: **a contrario**.

It also introduces proper nouns: **Balanța** (sign of the zodiac), **Balcic, Bangladesh, Celsius, Cucernicia Sa/Ta/Voastră, Dobrogeană** (breed of cattle), **Sânpetru** (religious celebration), **Sânnicolaul Mare / Sânnicolau Mare** (toponym) etc.

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Ms Ioana Vintilă-Rădulescu formulates several observations regarding the use of the current language in relation to the social norms, see the insert **Feminizarea** numelor de profesii și ocupații [**Feminisation** of the nouns designating professions and occupations], p. 312: "The Romanian society shows great resistance to the general feminisation tendency of the relatively recent nouns designating professions/occupations and also of the older ones (*doctoriță, ingineră*), the use of the (unmarked) masculine form being perceived as generating more prestige.

The official classification of occupations in Romania includes (also for reasons of economy and space) only masculine forms, considered generic; there are a few exceptions represented by occupations which are exclusively feminine [such as *moașă* (midwife)]"

Another practical feature are the inserts comprising the names of the world states, ethnical names, military ranks designations, indications regarding of the way in which telephone numbers or electronic addresses are written.

The complexity of the current language aspects treated in a new manner in this dictionary justifies the importance of the theme, which will also be approached in the project of the Translation Coordination Unit of elaborating a Guide of written communication.

Mariana Bara

Translation Coordination Unit

Retrospective view 2009 – Translation and revision of the ECHR case-law

For the Translation Coordination Unit, in so far as the translation and revision of the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights is concerned, the year 2009 has been a fruitful one.

On the one hand, after signing, on 17 July 2008, the Protocol with the Superior Council of Magistracy, in January 2009, the second and third stages of the protocol were initiated, respectively the translation and revision of the ECHR case-law. The team was made-up gradually and comprises currently two translators/linguistic revisers (Gabriela Andreea Andreica and Oana Gherăsoiu-Roșu), a terminologist (Alice Olaru) and two legal revisers (Costin Leonard Fălcuță și Daniela Livia Rădulescu).

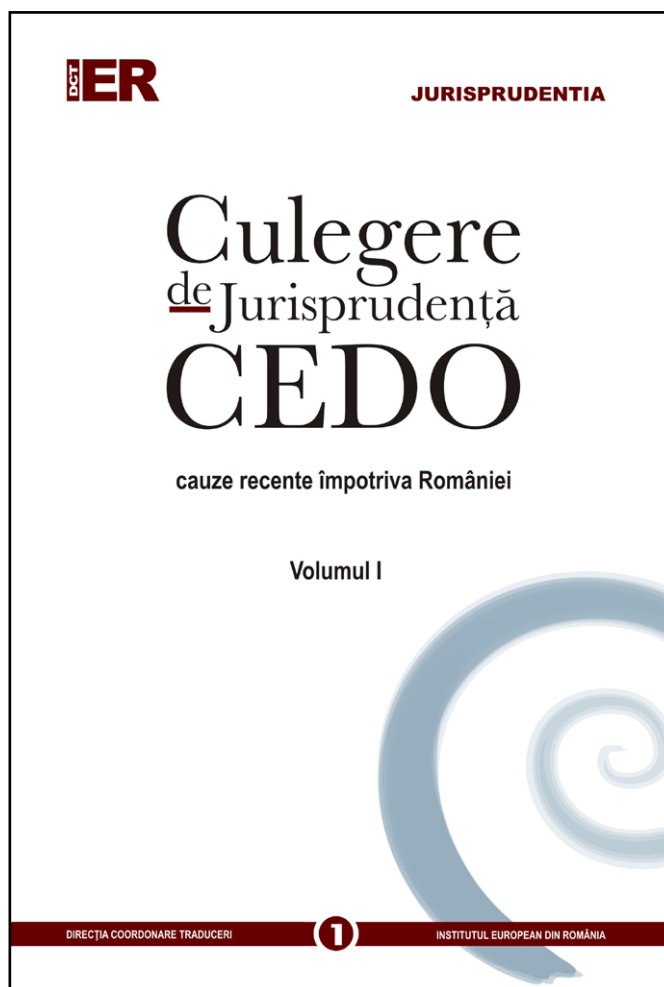
On the other hand, the novelty of this field prompted the adjustment of the working method as well as of the conventions and translation solutions for those involved, it showed the necessity of adopting a Style Guide for the translation into Romanian different from the one used in the translation of the Community *acquis*.

Therefore, starting from the fall of 2009, the elaboration of this work began and it is to be printed during 2010.

Another turning point was the printing in November 2009 of the first volume of the ECHR Reports which comprises the complete translation of 21 decisions delivered by the Court against Romania in the period January – July 2009, a very useful instrument from the point of view of the pertinence and actuality of the decisions concerned. It has a wide target audience, being useful in the everyday activity of the law practitioners – judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, etc. – but also of the theoreticians, students or those who study the field of human rights.

From a statistical point of view, 72 judgements were translated, 49 were linguistically revised and 100 were legally revised by the team. A total number of 159 documents were finalised, comprising over 2800 pages.

Costin Leonard Fălcuță
Translation Coordination Unit



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