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INTERACTION OF EUROPEAN POLICY IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION WITH EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION POLICY

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Abstract

European policy in research, technological development and space and European economic and social cohesion policy, governed by the Treaty of Lisbon, are of a great importance for European law and, consequently, for the standard of living of European citizens, because of the basic ideas it promotes: convergence and excellence. Aho Report, in fact the Commission Communication "Putting knowledge into practice: a broad-based innovation strategy for Europe" in 2006, highlights the connections between the two policies and outlines an Euromarket European research and innovation for Europe.

Keywords:
cohesion, convergence, research, development, innovation

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European economic cohesion and social policy and European policy of research and technological development and space are currently regulated by the Treaty of Lisbon, Title XVIII and Title XIX. Their importance is even greater as we realize that the interaction between these two politics could contribute directly to the growth of the living standards of the European Union citizens.

1. The origins of European policy of cohesion and research, development, innovation

The origins of cohesion policy are placed in the Single European Act. This European policy is based on the principle of income redistribution from rich to poor regions of the European Union.

As regards European policy in research, development, innovation, we note that the Euratom Treaty initiated European research policy, but even in these conditions, until the 1980's there was not a Community coordination of national policies in this area. Science becomes a Community responsibility in 1986, according to the Single European Act, with the insertion of a new title in the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, Title VI (art. 130F-130Q), entitled "Research and technological development".

The Maastricht Treaty has an important role by raising research-development, innovation to the rank of European priorities, as it is reflected in art. 3 of the Treaty. Research and technological development are now European priorities (Encyclopedia of the European Union (2006) :177). Later, the Lisbon Strategy is the cornerstone of European policy development in research, development, innovation, by focusing on knowledge.

Currently, the Agenda 2020 aimed, of course, to sustainable growth of the European Union as a whole, emphasizing the role of knowledge. Engrafted on the current economic crisis, Agenda 2020 is an accelerator for European policy in research, development, innovation, through its coordination with social, education and energy policy.

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2. Inter-connection between European politics of cohesion and research, development, innovation

Speaking about the interaction between these two European policy, we must consider the fact that, initially, they were seen as divergent, while the first policy tends towards convergence, to the relative uniformity, and the second tends to excellence.

Gradually, however, the European policy in the field of innovations caught consistency and now, this policy is the main instrument to European investment in innovation.

Designed in order to ensure a rapid European convergence by promoting an integration process in the economic and social sector, and a stronger integration of the Single Market, the European cohesion policy is interconnected with European policy of research, development, innovation, by:

- increasing competitiveness, as a direct consequence of the new type of knowledge-based economy;
- increasing efforts, oriented to development.

If the link between these two European policy is not clear from art. 174 and following of the Treaty of Lisbon, it resultes from the interpretation of these articles. The fact that the European Union has proposed that the aim of European cohesion policy is to reduce disparities between European regions, shows that one of the possible solutions is the investments and the promotion of research and innovation sector.

The strategy of creating an Innovative Europe, imaginated by Aho Report proposes a potential recipe for success, by combining a market for innovative goods and services, new financial structures, mobility of persons, financing through structural funds and organizations capable of managing innovation and their financing.

The specialty literature (Chirila, (2010): 329)considers that the link between the two European policy is given mainly to the specific funding instruments: the European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund and European Social Fund.

The document restricts funding solely on new areas of innovation, e.g.the pharmaceutical industry, transport and logistics, environment and digital industry. From our point of view, an Innovative Europe requires a paradigm shift in all areas known to both old and new.

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The Commission Communication - "Putting knowledge into practice: a broad-based innovation strategy for the EU" - was designed to continue the Aho Report, as a working strategy, including the recommendations contained in the Report.

In terms of commitments already undertaken at European level, we need changing in decisions and at institutional level. Lack of institutional action is due primarily institutional incapacity.

The Framework Programme 7 shows, again, the link between these two European policies. The reconciling of the economic's growth objectives, on the one hand, and economic and social cohesion objectives, on the other hand, is done by funding innovation and research. The interaction of European cohesion policy and European policy in the research, development, innovation involves discussions about the existence of an Euromarket in research and innovation sector.

We use here the term "market" in a broad sense, based on the market characteristics. If market for innovation, research, development, involve detailed contracts and technology alliances, the role of this market is to reduce barriers to entry, increase competition, and, basically to compress the product lifecycle.

In fact, Euromarket for innovation, research and development requires complex agreement for the contracting parties, undertake to coordinate their activities - jointly or independently - in such a way as to contribute to the development of innovation, research and development at European Union level. In other words, such a market involves the transactions necessary and sufficient for the creation, use and dissemination of innovations, of the results of the research effort.

In short, reviewing the market supply and the market demand for knowledge and original ideas at European Union level, our opinion is that the demand for innovation has an important role in motivating an innovative effort, so risky in terms of expenditure involved.

The specialty literature (Ergas(1984): 4) shows that demand for innovation, in general, is pendent to a number of factors related to: market size for a given product, the rate of growth of this market, the degree of the sophistication of the market, the degree of flexibility of the buyer and the degree of permeability of the market.

We ask ourselves which is the size of these factors on the European Union market. The answer is envisaged that at this moment,

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the market in innovation and research at European level is dissipated among the Member States.

To increase the size of demand for innovation and research, it is necessary for the European Union to develop a coherent set of policies in this area, to govern such a demand directly by regulations and standardization, as well as technology platforms, but also through acquisition of innovative public goods, both in public and in private sector.

On the supply side of innovation and research at European level, it is pendente of the existence of tax incentives (tax reductions for establishing companies innovation -oriented research, and reductions in social contributions for employees of such companies) funding public education (through the funding of universities, laboratories, through grants and strategic programs aimed to industry) training funding and mobility of researchers and innovators, providing special grants for research and industrial development, funding industrial parks, funding researchers clubs, funding the establishment of a large data base on patents.

The measures taken at European level - consisting of setting up of local companies in research and development sector, attracting foreign investments, development of public-private partnerships in research and development sector, creating institution aimed to create and to transfer knowledge - reveals a pattern of promoting innovation, research-oriented to innovations supply.

The supply for innovations and research in the European Union is pendent to a specific number of factors. Thus, in Europe we talk about a consumer or rather 490 million consumers who know their rights in this matter, are well informed and efforts are being made for the purpose of guaranteeing them these rights, established at the legislative level. From this perspective, we observe in transposing European Union legislation in the Member States of the provisions of Community directives which have an important impact on consumer's rights.

To have a functional Euromarket in innovation, research and development is necessary a mix of measures, combined in a form that supposes demand and supply of innovation at European Union level.

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3. Conclusions

Although, currently, we have a comprehensive legislative framework for the two European policies concerned, it is difficult to confirm the existence of an Euromarket for research, development and innovation in Europe. There are the necessary prerequisites. Different voices are beginning to shape the idea of a single market in our field of interest, but we can not notice the difference between the rhetoric striking political system, which cheer the European society based on knowledge and reality of a divided budget system, at the antipode to political statements.

For the existence of a real Euromarket sector, there is an important requirement: a more coordinated European Union Member States governments in this area, a real European cooperation in this sector, a single market which have to achieve a new dimension -of research and development, the empowerment of European citizens and their openness to innovative products and services, which have to be understood as better products and better services at lower prices, changing the way Europeans think - the desire for change and acceptance of change.

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