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**THE MULTIDIMENSIONALITY OF THE
CONCEPT OF POVERTY. AN EUROPEAN
PERSPECTIVE**

SUMMARY

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In this scientific approach I started from the premise that the study of permanent poverty is necessary, not only because this phenomenon remains a major global problem, far from being resolved comprehensively, but also because it is a cross-cutting issue. It is true that in recent decades have been undertaken various measures - locally, nationally and internationally - to reduce poverty, but while some efforts were unsuccessful, others have not had a substantial impact on the lives of the poor, or their impact was not sustainable. Studying and analyzing these experiences is needed to replicate good practices and avoid repeating the failures.

The motivation of the research started from the desire to provide a theoretical framework concerning the perception and the operationalization of poverty beyond economic indicators. We believe that such an undertaking process can be useful in "reforming" traditional techniques for measuring poverty, due to the presentation of the concept and phenomenon in relation to various dimensions that influence it. We expect that this research to be useful for researchers and decision makers responsible for public and social policies on poverty and redistribution.

In preparing this paper I have used both theoretical and applied research with a particular value in literature. I started the thread of historical research works such as that of Benjamin Seebohm Rowntree, *Poverty - a study of the town life*; Peter Townsend, *Poverty in the United Kingdom - A Survey of Household Resources and Standards of Living*; Steven Maurice Beaudoin, *Poverty in world history*; Bronislaw Geremek, *Secular Tendencies In Europe Relating To The Poorest Sections of Society: Challenges To Be Faced*; Amartya Sen, *Development as freedom, Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*.

A real help in building this scientific approach was the contribution to the study of works from Romania like that of Catalin Zamfir and Elena Zamfir, *Dimensions of poverty, Social policy. Romania in the European context, poverty reduction strategies and community development*; Bogdan Voicu, *Approaches of relative and consensual poverty. About relative deprivation*; Manuela Sofia Stanculescu, *Poverty-stricken, looking for another life!: the phenomenon of extreme poverty and poor areas in Romania in 2000*, Sorin Cace, *The welfare state: developments and trends* and others.

In analyzing poverty in relation to human rights, we appealed clearly at studying the most important international instruments applicable in this area, starting from the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, *The UN Charter*, *The Declaration on the Right to Development*, *The Social European Charter (revised)* and going to the most recent commitments by the international community in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms *United Nations Millennium Declaration* and *The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*.

Of an particular interest were the reports and publications of international organizations and agencies - United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO (UNESCO), Office of the High Commissioner of the United Nations Rights Man (OHCHR), World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Council, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Commission, European Parliament and others.

The quantitative data current approach was taken for a notably data provided by EU bodies, namely EU-SILC - EU statistics on income and living conditions and EUROSTAT.

The main aim of the thesis consists in analyzing poverty as a social problem in Europe, determine its multidimensional causes and consequences, that this phenomenon leads constantly to the undermining or violation of fundamental rights and freedoms.

We believe that regardless of its socio-cultural particularities, absolute poverty means essentially dramatic decreases, that threshold or below the subsistence of the population access to basic resources for human development and social integration, as defined, at some point, every social community. Absolute poverty and often irreversible massively reduces the chances of asserting the right to life of those directly affected, starting and ending with the desire of biological survival respect for human dignity.