

## THE ROMANIAN SOCIAL MODEL FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF POPULATION'S QUALITY OF LIFE<sup>3)</sup>

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*The quality of life perspective is used to define the social model as a descriptive concept which is focused a people with their needs. The author argues for a social model in Romania like in EU countries characterized by social solidarity and cohesion.*

The simple enunciation of the expression “Romanian social model” draws different reactions both due to the polysemy of “model” and to the association made in that particular expression. Indeed, there are multiple reactions, some of them diametrically opposed: from a strong scepticism according to which there could be no Romanian social model, to attitudes of acceptance materialized either in approaching the subject in the strict meaning of the term “model”, such as a success, an example, for instance, or simply considering the general (weak) meaning of the term of system structure (pattern), the Romanian social model in our situation.

As far as I am concerned, I joined the latter option. I will use the expression “Romanian social model” in a **descriptive conceptual** meaning, highlighting its traits. On this background, comparisons can be done with the social systems of other societies, with their strong or weak points, or directions of evolution can be tracked down followed by possible recommendations of public action which are to ensure both the specificity and the compatibility (harmonization) with the situation existing in EU member states and with concerns for transformation.

In order to cope with the requirements of a social pattern analysis, I used the perspective of the **quality of life**, considering its multiple possibilities in society analysis, just because it focuses on **people with their needs and expectations from life, on how can the people appropriate the conditions required to assert in society.**

Quality of life research focuses, mainly, on social, economic and political targets, but not only, which are traced both at the individual and global level. These targets are not imposed from the outside, more precisely, they must not be invented by researchers or by a given political authority, because they

<sup>3)</sup> This study is a modified form of the communication presented in the seminary “Romanian social model”, I.Q.L., June, 2004.