

## **Scientific report**

Regarding the implementation of the project PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2019-0219 (52/2020)  
between September - December 2020

### **I. Presentation of the project and the general objective**

Project name PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2019-0219: "Better knowledge for based assessment of public sector performance in European countries/ Problematika măsurării performanței sectorului public în țările Europene" (PN-III-P1-1.1-PD- 2019-0219, Contract 52/2020)" (hereinafter referred to as "the Project").

The research objective proposed within the project aims to analyze the performance of the public sector considering an innovative and robust research tool in terms of methodologies and aggregate indicators. The results of the research can generate benchmarks to understand the different ways in which a society must prioritize its public policies, in the context of socio-economic transformations in the geography of the European space mainly.

Stage 1 (September – December 2020): Conduct a review of recent literature (Objective 1) + Research dissemination (objective 3)

Stage 2 (January – December 2021): Econometric analysis (Objective 2) + Research dissemination (objective 3)

Stage 3 (January – August 2022): Econometric analysis (Objective 2) + Research dissemination (objective 3)

### **II. Implementation of the project during September - December 2020**

During 2020, the project had only one stage scheduled, between September 1 and December 31, 2020. Stage 1 had as its main objective the realization of a literature review on the measurement of public sector performance and the dissemination of the results obtained.

The specialized literature was analyzed through <https://www.e-nformation.ro/>, as well as through access to the university library. Moreover, two databases were acquired.

The global economy is struggling in the worst recession in decades (the crisis that started in 2008 and the pandemic of 2020), and economies around the world are facing significant shortages of financial resources. Moreover, citizens began to notice and express their dissatisfaction with the quality of services provided by the government. Struggling in this environment, the government had to become more inventive and adopt new strategies. For example, the need to measure the performance of the entire public sector taking into account its multidimensional nature and not just the financial perspective.

Starting from the current state of the literature and, in addition, the practices specific to the public sector domain, we find that the basis of the evaluation of this sector is data that analyzes inputs, outputs and results through performance measurement methodologies. In order

to carry out a reliable and neutral assessment, it is necessary to take into account the completeness of the influencing factors of the analyzed phenomenon (quantitative and qualitative elements of the results).

Measuring the performance of a country is becoming more and more difficult to determine, because nowadays financial indicators are no longer considered sufficient and there is a need to investigate the multidimensional reality of the economy. Almost all the world's economies trade and generate spin-offs, migration is another important factor that should be considered, but also sub-sectors such as education, health, environment and the general well-being of the nation. The practical implications of measuring the performance of different sub-sectors of the public sector are a key factor in achieving a global and sustainable performance of a nation.

More and more international institutions have developed methods to determine public sector performance and aggregate indicators to provide international comparisons, emphasizing the importance of selected sub-indicators, while public sector analysis is judicious and representative. It is important to note that these aggregate indicators can serve governments, more precisely policy makers in underperforming countries can identify sub-sectors of their economies that generate lower value, encountering the problems and generating policies specifically designed to improve them, with the aim of improve growth across the country. Moreover, the business environment and the population perceive the real position of their country's economy and can decide their further actions.

The research carried out at this stage is based on content analysis and bibliometric analysis to investigate the measurement of public sector performance in the specialized literature. Our research has highlighted that the most complex method of performance measurement in this area, namely the public sector, is that of aggregate indicators. In addition, special attention is needed in selecting the sub-indicators to consider and the sub-sectors of the economy to create the indicator. We state this because there is a risk of conveying ambiguous policy information, more precisely if some dimensions of the studied phenomenon are not correct, then decision makers may encounter difficulties in generating and applying appropriate policy. When performing the bibliometric analysis, our results reveal the existence of strong links. In terms of keywords, we selected at least 4 coincidences and obtained 9 clusters with "public sector" and "performance management" as the strongest keywords, while when we considered "authors cited together" with a threshold of 20 citations, we identified 38 authors grouped into 4 clusters. Furthermore, we analyzed authors' countries and institutions and observed a concentration of authors with affiliation in the USA and England.

Regarding the dissemination part of the results obtained through the project, it is presented below in detail, being able to summarize the main results as follows: 2 international conferences and 1 article sent to the ESCI journal.

#### **Expected results of Stage I:**

[1] 1 database with relevant studies on performance measurement and continuous updating of the database

[2] 1 study of relevant methodologies and results obtained in the recent literature to be materialized in a BDI article submitted to the journal

[3] 1 participation in a national / international conference

- [4] 1 project website
- [5] 1 Annual scientific report

**Results obtained at the end of Stage I:**

- [1] 1 database of relevant performance measurement studies

It is reflected through the article sent to Jurnal: "How should we measure public sector performance?"

- [2] Articles published / submitted for publication in 2020:

BDI articles

How should we measure public sector performance? Mustea L., Mihit L.D. & Lobonț O.R. – in evaluation

- [3] Participation in international conferences in 2020:

3.1 Competitiveness and stability in the knowledge-based economy - 12th iConEc Conference, with the article "Public sector performance - content analysis", Craiova, October 30 – 31.2020, Mustea L., Mihit L.D. & Lobonț O.R.

3.2 6th International Conference "Recent Advances in Economic and Social Research" (RAESR 2020), with the article: Composite indicators – a tool for measuring public sector performance, Bucharest, 10 - 11 December 2020, Mustea L.

- [4] Project web page updated with research progress:

<https://performeu.projects.uvt.ro/>

- [5] 1 Annual scientific report – available on the project webpage

**III. Conclusions**

The objectives of the first stage of the project, corresponding to the September - December 2020 calendar interval, have been achieved, with good premises for the next stage. Stage II consists mainly of econometric analysis and dissemination of the obtained results.

Project director,



Lavinia Mustea