Dobrogea School of Economics

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Abstract: *At present, we have all the necessary elements to be able to claim that "Dobrogea Economics School in Constanta" really exists in the Romanian and European academic landscape. Among these elements, we take into account those related to tradition, university education programs, valuable teaching staff, material basis, results / scientific visibility, etc. This article provides an approach to the establishment and further development of the Faculty of Economics at "Ovidius" University of Constanta. The continuous development of the collaboration relations with other universities - Romanian and foreign -, with governmental or private institutions, with the business environment, etc. confirms that today there is a Dobrogean School of Economics and, moreover, it has all the chances to last forever.*

Key words: *Academic traditions, university study programs, scientific visibility, prestige / competitiveness, international relations / partnerships.*

1. A University in Dobrogea (1961). The stages of becoming and transforming

Traditionally, in Romania, it is considered that there are three higher schools devoted to economics. This is because until the country's exit from communism, there were three large university centers, namely Bucharest,

Cluj and Iasi. Then, some merits were also acknowledged in this respect to the Universities of Timisoara and Craiova, which also incorporated in their structure Faculties of Economic Sciences. Now, the discussion is about Constanta - the capital of Dobrogea (as a Romanian historical province); here, we have had university education since 1961, but no economics faculty at that

Photo No. 1. The headquarters of the old Pedagogical Institute in Constanta

Source: <https://www.ziuaconstant.ro>

time. More specifically, the Pedagogical Institute was established in that year, and offered three-year university studies. It underwent a certain ascension, with notable performances,

but later, in the context of the general characteristics of the communist period, it faced a clear stage of marginalization. By the Decree of the State Council no. 209 / June 1977, the

Pedagogical Institute of Constanta becomes the Institute of Higher Education in Constanta with only one faculty - the Faculty of Technical and Pedagogical Education [1]. On December 22, 1989, in Constanta, there appeared to be just an academic entity of inferior rank - an institute for engineering assistants, but which had an important material basis. Within it the Welding Technology specialization, created in the academic year 1976/1977, was run in the framework of the Welding Technology, with full-time and evening courses, in operation until 1985.

2. The year 1990 - from the Institute of higher education to University

On March 7, 1990, by Decision no. 225 of the Romanian Government, the

Institute for Engineering Assistants in **Constanta City** ascends to the „university” rank, being in fact a follower of the university traditions mentioned above and preserving an academic culture that continues to evolve [1]. As it has evolved to this day, when it is called "Ovidius," after the name of the great Latin poet who lived here, the University of Constanta became the largest European university on the Black Sea coast. As the map below shows, the university is in a region in full economic growth, which is "a cultural bridge between the West and the Orient, an eastern gate of the European Union" [2]. The city of Constanta is also the largest in Dobrogea and in the whole South-East Romania. Today, about the university in question, we know that it is a public higher education institution of a multi-

Figure No. 2. Geographic location of Constanta (Dobrogea – RO, EU)

Source: <http://univ-ovidius.ro/uoc/prezentare-uoc#invățământ-de-calitate-centrat-pe-student>

disciplinary type, a component of the Romanian state education system, autonomous, having legal personality [3]. "Ovidius" University has high-quality bachelor, master and doctoral programs (over 15,000 students), being recognized as such by national and international accreditation institutions. Economics specializations within the university in question are found in economic-based programs since the academic year 1990-1991 - (1) International Economic Relations, full-time, 5-year program of study, and (2) Tourism-Services, full-time, 5 years, later a 4 year program of

study) but there was no faculty of economics. That is why these two study programs functioned in the structure of the Faculty of Sciences, and later in 1993 they entered the organizational structure of the Faculty of Mathematics and Economic Sciences [4].

3. Establishment and further development of the Faculty of Economics at "Ovidius" University of Constanta

Starting with the academic year 1995-1996, the Faculty of Economic Sciences was established [5], being structured on

two models with one specialization for each of them (1) Trade-Marketing, with the specialization Tourism-Services, full-time, 4 years of study and (2) International Economic Relations, with the specialization International Economic Relations, full-time, 4 years of study. Studying the documents of „Ovidius” University in Constanta [1], we can notice that from the academic year 1997/1998, the specialization Finance and Accounting was authorized, full-time and with a duration of 4 years of study. From the 1999/2000 academic year, two postgraduate courses were also organized: (1) Intra-European Transactions and (2) Business

Administration in Tourism, with a duration of 1 year of study. Due to the changes in the economic and social environment of the region, the educational offer of the faculty has diversified by increasing the number of specializations required on the labor market and by various educational forms. In this way, in the field of tourism, trade, services, international affairs, accounting, audit and management of business projects, there were established in-depth studies and master studies. At the same time, in addition to full-time education, distance learning was introduced into the academic structure:

STUDY PROGRAMS - UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL, AT THE FACULTY OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES OF "OVIDIUS" UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANȚA [6]

STUDY PROGRAMS - UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

ECONOMY OF TRADE, TOURISM AND SERVICES, full-time and distance education

ECONOMY OF THE COMPANY, full-time education

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, full-time and distance education

ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATICS, full-time and distance education

FINANCE AND BANKS, day and distance education

MARKETING, full-time education

MANAGEMENT, full-time education

STUDY PROGRAMS - MASTER LEVEL

Research Masters:

Administration of International Affairs

Business Administration in Tourism, Commerce and Services

Accounting and Business Audit

Corporate Finance and Banking

Professional Masters:

European Policies for Regional Development

Risk Management in International Business

Business Administration in Small and Medium Enterprises

Business Quality Assurance

Administration and Audit of Business Projects

Accounting and Financial Techniques for Business Management

Finance - Capital Markets

In the context of fulfilling the mission of "training specialists with higher education in the fields / specializations of the accredited structure, at the level of the current labor market requirements and the requirements stipulated by the National Qualifications Framework in Higher Education" [7], The Faculty of Economic Sciences has increased its number of students approximately 20 times in relation to its first year of operation. Respectively, "from about 100 students (in 1990-1991) to 2,100

students now; from two tenured members of the teaching staff in 1990 to 47 tenured members of the teaching staff at present; from two specializations, to 6 fields / 7 specializations in the undergraduate education and 4 fields / 9 masters specializations in the academic year 2016-2017" [7]. Its operation is supported by modern, recently established headquarters, located in the vicinity of the largest seaside resort on the Black Sea (Photo 3). As we are talking a higher school of economics ("Dobrogea

Economics School of Constanta"), we also have to discuss the problem of the teaching and research staff, which tends to be in a relatively large number - approximately 100. They work in three departments: the Department of

Finance-Accounting, the Department of Business Administration and the Department of General Economics. Also, the doctoral school is about to start its activity, with three professors PhD supervisors in Economics and Business

Photo No. 3. The current headquarters of the "Ovidius" University in Constanta, where the Faculty of Economics operates

Source: http://studymedico.com/university.php?university=ovidius_university_of_constanta

Administration - Elena Condrea, Corina Vancea, Kamer-Ainur Aivaz. Referring to the scientific visibility of the members of these departments, we can state that this is highly appreciated, including ISI / Web of Science publications. We need to mention some other valuable members of Dobrogea School of Economics, especially professors / researchers such as Elena Condrea, Cristina Lazar, Nicoleta Asaloş, Anca Cristina Stanciu, Irena Munteanu, Gheorghe Negoescu, Marioara Mirea or Veronica Popovici, with prestigious works in this field. Each of them stood out with articles and studies published both in the Annals of the Faculty of Economic Sciences (Indexed: EBSCO, CABELL, ERIH PLUS, DOAJ, RePEc, Infobase Index and ResearchBib, etc.), and in foreign journals / volumes [8-63]. Last but not least, we need to mention the relations of the team with the international environment, as there are many different partnerships with different institutions that aim to increase the participation in the process of European integration in the field of knowledge. Among other things, collaborative relationships with

other university centers took place in six TEMPUS-IB JEP programs, in which the Faculty of Economic Sciences participated as a partner of other universities in the country and abroad, and an IB JEP program – as a contractor. Also, the Faculty of Economic Sciences at "Ovidius" University in Constanta has developed its university collaboration within the ERASMUS / SOCRATES program through bilateral collaboration agreements signed annually with two universities in the European Union: the University of Salerno, Italy and Universite d'Auvergne-Clermont I in France, having as main objective teaching staff and students mobility.

4. Conclusion

Though created quite recently, less than three decades ago, Dobrogea Economy School of Constanta has evolved at the most important levels. Possessing qualitative human resources involved in the teaching and research process, multiple bachelor and master study programs and a doctoral school prepared to commence its activity, the Faculty of Economic Sciences also aims

at increasing its international visibility, respecting traditions and taking into account that the province of Dobrogea

has always constituted a cultural bridge between civilizations.

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