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Article

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Micro and Macroeconomic Impact of the EU Energy Policies

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For several years, humanity has been going through a kaleidoscope of crises (global economic and financial, health, of the development model to be followed, geo-strategic, in terms of people's living standards and, last but not least, energetic) all categories of stakeholders being obliged to answer them as adequately as possible. Both those who are positioned at the level at which public policies are drawn up and implemented, the representatives of the economic and social environment but also those from the academic and scientific environment, need to identify both the systemic risks and the valuable opportunities that can be internalised, to conceive directions of action, and compose the set of mechanisms and tools with the help of which it is possible to act in a new logic of cost-efficiency type. The decision-makers at the level of the community bodies of the European Union, as well as those of the member countries of this integrationist grouping referential for the global economic picture, must decide on the preferred path for the future economic evolution, one centred on economic and social cohesion or one centered on competitiveness. Any of the two strategic alternatives cannot ignore the energy factor, a provocative one, dependent on several parameters and with very large amplitude driving effects on the entire European and international societal picture. The capacity of the European Union, faced with the more and more exciting set of challenges of different natures but also of various intensities, to maintain and the potency of the level of prosperity to which the current and future generations aspire, requires a deep retrospective on the nature of the economic growth model and the changes necessary to ensure the appropriate level of sustainability. In this context of high dynamism, with a fairly high degree of turbulence, researchers, in special those from de economic field, have the task of taking multilevel and multiparameter analysis of the new realities in today's society, identifying vulnerabilities and prescribing appropriate solutions, and it must also recommend the medication dosage that makes it possible to ensure the additional level of sustainability both at the macroeconomic and meso and microeconomic level. The issue related to the vital role of energy in all development models is not new on the specialised research agenda. What is new today is related to the scope of developments, the congruence between different processes and phenomena, and the set of new solutions that must be identified and substantiated argumentatively.

Ensuring the appropriate level of energy resilience is part of a new development paradigm, that of sustainable development, which involves maximising economic efficiency, social responsibility, and ecological resilience, becoming more and more evident that if the energy challenge is not managed in time and correctly, we will witness the accumulation of new micro and macroeconomic vulnerabilities and the intensification of risks to dynamic societal balances. Academic and scientific researchers prove that they have fully understood that the EU's energy policy has the following strategic objectives at its core: security of the main supply sources; sustainability and energy efficiency, and based on the

logic of new competitiveness. In order to make these wishes come true, in 2016 the Strategy was launched to contribute to the realisation of a resilient Union in terms of energy, which is in close correlation with the community's ecological policy. At the level of the editorial staff of our increasingly prestigious Journal, the requirement was fully understood that the advancement towards this Energy Union can be a successful process only if macro or microeconomic steps are taken in time, based on research results of high relevance and will focus on the values of relational capital, which makes possible a greater level of synergy in terms of efforts but also of the results that can be obtained.

In the context of the sharpening of both geopolitical and geoeconomic pressures, it becomes increasingly pressing for all categories of stakeholders to understand the extent to which the current model of development revises the importance of the energy factor, emphasising resilience and energy efficiency. The European Union and the countries that compose it must position themselves dynamically and efficiently in relation to all aspects related to the energy driver. Expert research must give reasoned opinions on the most sensitive aspects of the energy landscape in general and the appropriate energy model in particular. One of the most important challenges is related to energy security, which has traditionally been associated with access to fuel sources, to a large extent fossil and recently also renewable ones, and electricity. The current energy parameter can no longer be analysed beneficially if it is not placed in the interdisciplinary logic being correlated with climate change, the efficiency of resource use, and decarbonisation. More and more researchers, Romanians or belonging to more mature schools of thought from abroad, are of the opinion and support thoroughly argued analytically and methodologically that it is no longer enough that the energy challenge is limited only to the security of supply sources, becoming necessary the scientific approach and of solidarity between actors participating in the market game or trust in the good intentions of energy suppliers. Being permanently an important driver of all the basic macro and monoeconomic correlations, the energy one proves to be a main topic for public policies and also for the relevant scientific debates.

In the context in which specialised research has the duty to identify and substantiate the best solutions to the complex set of challenges, the **Amfiteatru Economic Journal** has dedicated its issue to the works whose authors have proven that they can make scientifically valid contributions to the enrichment of available knowledge and to a better understanding of the macroeconomic and microeconomic implications of the change taking place in the European Union's energy paradigm. The key terms seen by the evaluators of the articles sent for publication were: main changes at the level of the global energy paradigm; the strategic repositioning of the European Union in relation to the paradigm shift in terms of energy; the role of the European Union's energy policy within the mix of community sectoral policies; management of the main developments in terms of economic, social and territorial cohesion; the position of the various interest groups in the EU regarding the energy mix; the digital, ecological and energy transition at the level of the European Union; the EU policy for promoting a behavior favorable to sustainability at the level of companies and individual consumers; analysis of the sectoral and microeconomic reverberations of the energy paradigm shift.

In the paper entitled "*Effect of economic, institutional and cultural factors on the implementation of the energy policies of the European Union*", the authors carried out a research on the optimal dosage of the factors on which efficiency depends on the level of green energy production. The specificity of this research also lies in the fact that in the analysis carried out, the authors prioritised the sources for which the European Union co-

finances investments in production capacities, for methodological reasons, omitting hydroelectric energy. In analytical and methodological terms, the focus is on the economic determinants, with a special reference to the internal consumption of electricity and the national income, on the institutional ones, to capture their specific weight by referring to the variables found in the Global Governance Indicators used by the World Bank Group (Worldwide Governance Indicators), but also the cultural ones treated from an established perspective, the one connected with Hofstede's national cultural indices. For reasons linked to the comparability of statistical data but also the availability of dynamic series of continuous data, the analysis focused on the developments that took place in EU member countries in the period 2007-2015, using panel models with random effects and to hierarchical clustering. Proceeding to a very carefully carried out survey of the state of knowledge reached in the research field addressed from which valuable thematic openings related to the concerns of other researchers regarding the nature and strategic anchors of public policies adopted and implemented in the energy sector were derived, the authors better founded their analytical hypotheses, adapted the methodological apparatus used and were able to capture the most relevant particularities of public policies and concrete actions of some EU member countries, beneficially structuring the empirical studies in which the issue of the paradigm shift to energy level, from energy based on fossil resources to renewable energy. In this paper, the emphasis is placed on some main trends derived from the statistical analyses, the results obtained by the authors are compared with those of more or less similar studies, and several pertinent conclusions are drawn, based on the research carried out and solidly grounded methodologically and argumentative. The empirical results obtained by the authors of the article show the significant influence of internal energy consumption per inhabitant, effectiveness in terms of governance mechanisms, compliance with legislation, control of corruption, distance from power and uncertainty avoidance. The multidimensional hierarchical clustering indicates the existence of three behavioral groups regarding the set of these variables, two of these groups being quite homogeneous from the point of view of the geographical distribution of the countries on the European continent.

A dynamic and integrative perspective on the specific mechanisms of the energy resources market is offered to us by the authors of the article titled *"Changes in the energy and green energy market during the COVID-19 crisis; a global perspective"* in which the influence of one of the critical events of the current decade, namely the COVID-19 pandemic, on the environment and, in particular, on the energy and electricity sector, a key sector for sustainable economic development, is analysed. Starting from the assumption that the academic debate on this topic remains open, since definitive conclusions have not yet been reached, the authors set out to provide a series of useful arguments in such a debate, proactively positioning themselves against what could be defined as the critical challenge for human society in the near future, namely the natural environment and how to deal with climate change. The main analytical driver is to clarify and quantify the impact of COVID-19 on the energy and electricity sector, including on green energy (renewable sources, wind and solar energy) the authors provide a global perspective of this impact, considering a group of 45 countries (which covers more than 90% of global GDP). We need to appreciate the scientific contribution of the authors who performed both an analysis of the evolution of the average values and the variance by country for the 14 indicators and for the 45 countries in the panel, as well as a counterfactual analysis that took into account the statistical significance of the differences between the sets of pandemic and pre-pandemic data for which the two-sample t-test (in-pandemic and before-pandemic) was used, assuming that the samples have different variances. Appropriately mixing their

processed statistical data mix and uniquely combining time horizons, the authors obtained a series of analytical results that confirm the existence of a methodologically robust negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global power and energy production electricity, only partial confirmation of the positive impact on global greenhouse gas emissions but also of the positive impact on the world trade balance with energy and electricity. Regarding the other analytical hypotheses considered, a negative impact (reduction) on the world consumption of energy and electricity, and finally also a partial positive impact (increase) on global energy production and intensity was confirmed green and electricity.

The authors of the article entitled *"Renewable energy and decarbonisation: implications for energy policy in the European Union"*, started from the idea that the energy driver was one of the most important in the equation of the entire process of European economic integration, ever since the institutionalisation of the CECO and have proceeded to examine the contribution of low-carbon and fossil fuel-based electricity sources to environmental degradation in European Union (EU) countries, shaped by economic development and globalisation. The scientific results obtained can be considered relevant and argumentatively sustainable as a result of the multi-variable radiography of the concurrent and individual effects of alternative sources of electricity on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Putting the GMM (Generalised Method of Moments) estimators at the heart of the methodological plan used, the authors were able to empirically test the assumption that all low-carbon energy sources have an effect of mitigating environmental degradation in the EU, in the context of persistent pollution fed of electricity based on fossil fuels. The research conducted robustly proves that: hydropower and wind power are emerging as the most effective sources of electricity production in the fight against climate change; countries' level of development, globalization and population level do not have a significant impact on pollution in EU countries. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this paper can serve to further underpin energy policies, suggesting that replacing fossil fuels with low-carbon sources, especially wind and hydroelectric power, is a beneficial way to achieve decarbonisation while reducing oil dependence. and gas from third countries of the European Union.

In the paper entitled *"Analysis of the impact of the European Union's energy and environmental policy on the economic performance of companies. Case study in the transport sector"* the authors start from the analysis of concerns regarding the study of the impact of the European Union's energy policy on the economic landscape of the member countries, emphasising aspects such as: the role of renewable energy on international relations; the energy revolution through the use of new technologies with a high degree of energy efficiency; evaluating the performance of economic development in the field of transport from a sustainable perspective; the cause-effect relationship that can be established between economic growth and sustainable energy consumption; the link between corporate responsibility and the role of the bio economy in the intelligent use of renewable energy sources. It can be appreciated the way in which, during the research, the authors focused on the reason and the macroeconomic objectives, in a stipulated normative framework, the importance of catalysing and making the activities efficient at the microeconomic level; analysis of the importance of a responsible behavior at the macro and microeconomic level, aiming at the dynamic revelation of dysfunctions and conflicts, generated within each sphere, in their relationship as well as in the normative framework involved, in order to establish timely and effective mechanisms for balance and development. The authors excel by analysing the micro-macroeconomic convergence from the perspective of the link between economic performance and energy consumption from

the point of view of ensuring the necessary resources and the efficiency of their use, they emphasise the need to increase energy efficiency and convincingly argue the idea that greater recourse to renewable energy, the aim of sustainable development, does not constitute a significant factor for improving the economic performance of companies in the transport sector. The contributions of the two-dimensional approach carried out consist in mediating the conflict between the objectives of economic profitability and the constraints regarding the environment, targeting both the microeconomic level, through the analysis of the gross operating rate in correlation with energy consumption and CO₂ emissions, as well as that of the macroeconomics, constituting a benchmark in substantiation of policies in the field.

A new perspective on the dynamic balances of the energy market is provided by the authors of the paper entitled *"Drivers for the consumption of renewable energy in the countries of the European Union"*. A panel approach that starts from the assumption that energy from renewable sources has an essential role in the wider context of environmental protection and the fight against the effects of climate change. Another working hypothesis was added to this, namely that according to which, at the European level, the need to increase the share of energy generated from renewable resources is solidly and constantly supported from a regulatory and institutional point of view, taking the form of strategic documents, the most important being The European Green Pact, adopted in 2019, which convincingly emphasises the role of energy generated from renewable sources in the fulfillment of more complex objectives, recognised at the international level. The authors, using a relevant documentary base and a modern and suggestive methodological apparatus, proceeded to the methodological investigation and scientific argumentation of the correlations between the consumption of energy obtained from renewable sources by sector and other important indicators in the energy sector, representing energy productivity, intensity, efficiency, import dependence, research and development (R&D) allocations and energy-related tax revenues, for the period 2004-2020. From a modern methodological perspective, the authors used a panel-type approach for the member states of the European Union, providing expressive comparisons between the actual states of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and those of Western Europe. It should be appreciated how the analytical hypotheses from which it was started were empirically tested, the results obtained confirming the different conditions for the two groups of countries, which allowed the authors to make pertinent recommendations regarding the future design of some policies specific energy.

In the article entitled *"Strategic repositioning of consumers in the European Union in the context of the change in the energy paradigm. From the traditional supplier-user relationship, to the emergence of prosumers"*, the authors set out to capture one of the most complex changes in dominant logic that takes place at the level of the regional and global societal landscape. The authors start from the hypothesis that the entire contemporary economic and non-economic landscape has to deal with a complex kaleidoscope of challenges, fueled by a greater than ever level of turbulence that manifests itself on all facets of society. A comprehensive analysis of the state of knowledge in this field, allowed the authors to find that, in the new circumstances, opportunities and threats succeed and multiply, interfere and require a proactive approach and placed in synergistic logic. One of the main analytical drivers of this research approach aims at the fact that, in recent years, we are witnessing the emergence of developments that consecrate a new concept, located at the confluence between economy and ecology, that of resilience. At the level of the European Union, resilience can be attached to all strategic or tactical parameters, the most interesting areas of manifestation of the need for resilience being

those related to digitisation and the energy sector. Starting from the assumption that most of the geopolitical and geoeconomic conditions are changing at a very high speed, the authors of this article managed to emphasise aspects related to the rediscovery of the advantages of energy autonomy. From the point of view of the scientific methodology used, the authors proceeded to aggregate the production curves of dispatched photovoltaic energy in the year 2021 at the national level, building and operating a production model for prosumers as well. In this context, using the Cobb-Douglas production function, a diagnosis was made of the conditions in which the consumer can have a versatile role and become, in turn, an energy producer, contributing more tangibly to the necessary changes in the climate agenda plan.

Starting from the hypothesis that in recent years it has become increasingly necessary to move from the prevalence of the concept of economic growth to giving the due role to those of prosperity, respectively well-being, the authors of the article *"Energy poverty: Macroeconomic perspective on Romania, Bulgaria and the Group from Visegrad in a European context"*, proceeded to the diagnosis of the most relevant development models and took into account the core-periphery type of energy poverty applicable to the case of the European Union. One of the main analytical hypotheses was based on the idea that the energy vulnerability of Romania, Bulgaria and the economies of the Visegrad Group, as "peripheral" countries, is often attributed to the legacy of the centrally planned economy and the post-communist economic transformations towards the economy of market. The authors have carried out a solid methodological investigation at the level of a possible center-periphery pattern applicable to Romania, Bulgaria and the V4 countries in it by resorting to a model that integrates three thresholds of energy poverty, respectively physical, technological and economic. Within this article, the manifestation of some disparities between the selected countries on each of these thresholds is sustainably argued and the existence of two clusters is suggested that can be described by a center-periphery type model, with different meanings than those stated by the classical theory of economic development. The analytical results that have been reached are some with a high methodological utility both by opening new research directions and by offering arguments to be considered by the makers of public policies or development programs.

In the article entitled *"Energy transition and sustainable development at the level of the European Union"*, the authors start from the hypothesis that among the strategic priorities of the European integrationist group is indisputably the optimal management of the energy transition. The main analytical vectors subjected to multiparametric radiography by the authors were represented by the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as the mitigation of the group's dependence on imported fossil fuels. At the analytical and methodological level, in this article it was aimed to argue as sustainably as possible that the European Union represents a spearhead in the fight against climate change, caused by greenhouse gas emissions. Methodologically, it stands out the way in which the correlation between greenhouse gas emissions and the main factors that have a direct impact on the increase of greenhouse gas emissions, such as GDP per capita or greenhouse gas emissions per capita from the previous period (t-1). In this sense, the accuracy with which the panel model was operationalised, in which statistical data provided by EUROSTAT for the 27-member states of the European Union, for the time horizon 2005-2020, was used. Data processing using the Eviews 8 econometric program and the quality of the arguments provided reinforce the conclusion that there is a statistically robust correlation between the level of GDP per capita and that of greenhouse gas emissions making the energy transition an increasingly urgent need.

A pronounced interdisciplinary perspective on the Romanian energy picture is offered by the authors of the article entitled *"The mix of resources, the security and sustainability of the Romanian energy complex in the European context"*, starting from the hypothesis that the "conceptual calm" of the last decades of the existence of the world economy it represents a strategic approach error, ignoring the objective cyclicity of almost all economic phenomena and processes. Being the result of multi-level analyses of energy activities in Romania by highlighting the variants of the mix of energy resources, production alternatives and ways of energy consumption, the ideas contained in this article assume that the uneven degree of ownership of energy resources in EU member countries can be considered a comparative advantage for Romania. During this research, an x-ray is made of the way in which the new development model is influenced by the current energy crisis and the concept of transitional recession is launched, with an emphasis on reducing the risks associated with the lack of energy resources in Romania and in the EU until 2030. The authors emphasise the most sustainable trends in the market of these vital resources for development, clarify and argue the operational managerial applications for the predictable but also unpredictable developments in the field of energy in Romania. From a methodological point of view, the foundations are laid for a formalisation model of the security, safety and prerequisites for Romania's energy independence. On this basis, the maximisation of the outputs from the model of security and safety states is pursued and the premises for Romania's energy independence, respectively the minimization of environmental effects, are systematised. Based on the calculations and evaluations from three scenarios, a variant of the electricity/energy production mix results that meets the objectives pursued. Adding scientific value to this research is the proposal of an approach-block scheme, launching the idea of open energy autonomy, considered appropriate with the eco-economic, productive-industrial behavior of Romania.

In the article entitled *"Hybridisation of the neurofuzzy model and the seasonal autoregressive model for forecasting the price of electricity on the German spot market"* the authors start from the hypothesis that, especially during periods of economic turbulence, it becomes vital for states to anticipate fluctuations in consumption and cost variations, considering the impact that electricity as a resource has on both households and the business environment. The authors put at the center of their analytical and methodological approach the demonstration of the fact that electricity price forecasting is a field that has gained more and more relevance in recent years. From a careful reading of a rich literature and based on the belief that, despite the increased interest in predictive algorithms, the challenges are difficult to overcome, given both the difficult access to relevant data sets and the lack of measurement tools and high-precision analysis, the authors demonstrate that in the field of electricity price forecasting, the refinement of models whose viability has been proven over time has been achieved. In this research, a new univariate hybrid model was used, developed and tested on data series from the German electricity market, based on the Seasonal Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average (SARIMA) and NeuroFuzzy - Local Linear Wavelet Neural models, respectively Network (LLWNN). Even if the methodological limitation is understood that there are still a number of complex challenges that leave their mark on any new version of the model, the authors have demonstrated that the proposed algorithm significantly narrows the gap between predictions and actual prices. The conclusion reached by the authors is that the improvement of the accuracy of the results obtained in the process of dynamic forecasting of the price of electricity on the spot market represents an important asset for both suppliers and consumers, with a view to the prophylactic calibration of supply-demand ratios, which makes so that the model can be

applied to as many different segments of the energy market as possible, having a relatively stable structure.

The authors of the article entitled *"Implementation of measures to improve energy efficiency in Romania and the role of professional accountants"* offer us an equally sectoral but also sequentially professional perspective on the energy sector, who started from the hypothesis that, in the tense geopolitical context, existing currently in Europe, where organisations are increasingly exposed to the economic pressures generated by the accelerated increase in electricity prices, the economic approach to energy efficiency takes on new values. Understanding that many of the researches related to the dynamics and complexity of the energy market have paid marginal attention to the efficiency vector, the authors set out to convincingly argue that energy efficiency represents one of the main objectives of the European Union policy and the organisational environment strives to implement various measures improving energy efficiency in order to optimise business models. The main analytical and methodological objectives of this research were: the evaluation of the progress regarding the implementation of energy efficiency improvement measures (MIEE) at the level of some organisations in Romania; evaluating the usefulness of measures to improve energy efficiency and the impact of these measures on organisations. From the point of view of the research methodology, the exploratory dimension was chosen based on questionnaires answered by 445 accounting professionals from Romania. The scientific processing of the information collected with the help of this investigation method allowed the identification of the fact that the frequently adopted measure to improve energy efficiency by organisations in Romania is the purchase of assets with lower energy consumption. In the article I bring solid arguments in favor of a composite indicator that can be extended from the field of trade in goods and services (with the exception of the architecture, construction consultancy, engineering sector) to other sectors and categories of organisational entities. The accounting professionals interviewed believe that the most useful energy efficiency improvement measure that could be implemented by organisations is the use of assets that belong to the highest energy efficiency class, the authors identifying a varied range of energy efficiency improvement measures that can be taken by the state and implemented by organisations.

From an even more focused perspective towards the microeconomic dimension, the authors of the article entitled *"How family firms influence the financing of environmental protection strategies and energy saving measures"*, started from the hypothesis that within the efforts to ensure efficiency energy sector there are no neutral societal actors, all categories of stakeholders should consider themselves main actors of the relational picture. The analytical approach starts with an x-ray of the specialised literature, based on which the assumption is strengthened that family firms have consolidated, in recent decades, as an important asset in the economies of the majority of European Union member countries. Starting from the hypothesis that these firms present specific features in terms of how internal processes are developed and that there are still a number of differences in terms of their attitude towards social responsibility and towards environmental policies, in the research carried out by the authors have focused their analytical and methodological approaches towards the analysis in which the tools of behavioral economics are used. The originality of the research is enhanced by the authors' decision to focus on the environmental health responsibility dimension of the corporate landscape. An important analytical vector of the research is represented by the multi-factor approach to the issue related to energy saving. The empirical results, based on a sample of 1,771 Spanish companies in the manufacturing industry, highlight the positive effect that the family

character has on the proactive environmental strategy, allowed the authors to base their following conclusions: the different sources of financing can change the actors' behaviors firm in different ways; self-financing weakens the positive effect of family ownership on environmental protection and energy saving, while debt is not a barrier and public support strengthens the positive relationship; studying behavioral aspects, contributes to a better understanding of the commitment of family firms in terms of responsible behavior and the impact of different financial sources, necessary to promote the energy challenge at the level of the European Union.

Relating their research to the valences and limits of the cohesion-competitiveness binomial, to which EU decision-makers must give even greater interest, the authors of the article entitled *"EU decarbonisation: How is the competitiveness of exports affected by EU electricity costs?"* moves the analytical and methodological perspective towards one of the most sensitive challenges of the moment, that of reporting organisational actors to the radiation of the new competitiveness model. The starting analytical hypothesis is that the European Union has established itself, especially in recent decades, as the most fervent supporter of decarbonisation in the era of challenges related to international competitiveness. This research proposes an investigation of the relationship between energy costs imposed by decarbonisation (the case of electricity) and export competitiveness of EU countries. In terms of methodology, the authors called for the operationalisation of an analytical model centered on a panel regression, in which the unit energy costs for electricity were used as a methodological vector and the competitiveness of exports was analysed through the domestic added value in the gross export from TiVA database. During the research carried out, the authors of the article were able to convincingly argue the negative effect of the increase in the unit costs of electricity on the competitiveness of exports, but only at the level of the entire industry. An even stronger negative effect of rising energy costs was identified in EU13 countries (new member states and industrialised countries). The most important original results are based on data on unit energy costs at the level of EU Member States, demonstrate different effects of decarbonisation on export competitiveness in the EU27 and investigate selected effects of decarbonisation on energy-intensive industries. The authors' conclusions and recommendations regarding the potentially harmful and diversified effects of decarbonisation commitments on export competitiveness can be of real use to those who design and implement public policies or sectoral or company programs aimed at helping to adapt to new trends in European ecological resilience plan.

Putting in a complex, dynamic but also sensitive equation the sectoral components of a development model with the dimensions of the actors participating in the current economic game, the authors of the article entitled *"Barriers in the involvement of micro and small companies in the energy transition of the European Union"*, started their the analytical and methodological approach from the assumption that one of the biggest challenges for modern companies is to find a balance between achieving environmental objectives and maintaining the desirable level of competitiveness in the market. Based on a very careful and comprehensive analysis of the specialised literature, the authors wanted to empirically test the assumption that the developments that take place in the current business environment determine frequent repositioning in relation to the external environment and force companies to overcome various challenges that contribute to reducing energy consumption. The research carried out aimed at providing well-argued answers to several questions, one of which is what problems can be identified for the smallest business entities in the implementation of environmental standards imposed by legislation? In order to

answer these analytical and methodological dilemmas as convincingly as possible, the authors structured their work according to the following analytical vectors: identifying and clarifying the main problems related to the energy transformation in EU member countries; capturing the specificities related to the European SME sector in terms of energy saving challenges; multilevel and multiparameter x-ray of the particulate economic picture in Poland, with emphasis on the importance of the SME sector. The research, based on a structured and standardised survey questionnaire, was conducted using the CATI technique in the period April-May 2022 among micro and small business owners operating in Poland. As a result of the operationalisation of the obtained results and the processing based on a scientific methodology of phenomenological type, the authors have identified, structured and explained the main barriers that limit the participation of the surveyed companies in the suitability process in relation to the new requirements derived from reaching the expected level of energy resilience.

Scientific research, in general, but also economic research, in particular, has the duty to anticipate changes, to draw early attention to threats that can influence the existing development model, to help identify new opportunities and provide solutions to minimise risks and maximising the beneficial effects. For researchers, there are no subjects that have exhausted their scientific potential, and no analytical or methodological taboos that prevent the manifestation of courage in approaching them and overcoming prejudices, even if they are wrapped in the most expensive packaging. **Amfiteatru Economic Journal** has established itself as a leading scientific publication that offers its pages to all those who have something to say, know and can offend at a high scientific level. In this issue, the possibility was offered for analysts, concerned with energy resilience, the connection of energy with ecology, with competitiveness but also with behavioral drivers, to make solid methodologically grounded analysis, to capture correlations and causalities, to transmit solidly argued messages and to propose solutions. Internalising the costs and maximising the benefits related to adapting to the rigors included in the European Green Pact, anticipating and counteracting the negative effects related to the energy crisis and proactive positioning in relation to the new development model, are requirements that all societal actors must reflect on, finding some solutions -se in the articles contained in this issue of the Journal.

Prof. univ. dr. Dumitru Miron
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