

The Social and Political Responsibility of the Romanian State: Consequences of the Inefficient Management of the Management System in Romania in the Socio-economic Context

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Abstract: *Romania is in an unprecedented situation, overshadowed not only by the deaths due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but also by the inefficient management of the management system both socially and economically. In the socio-economic context, as the European Statistical Office warns, Romania is in free fall, registering a major economic decline at European level. Over the last 2 years, public debt has risen to 50% of GDP and is still growing. The current government is proving incapable of redressing the socio-economic situation. In this article, I will briefly detail the economic and social problems that Romania faces at national level, due to the inefficient management of the current management system, both on the social side and on the economic side. I will also try to offer a solution for solving this "political crisis", a solution that, in my opinion, could change Romania's future perspective.*

Keywords: *COVID-19, death, public debt, management system, economic.*

1. Introduction

If we look back in Romania's history, we will find that there have never been so many human lives, lost in such a short time. During a war or, more recently, at the 1989 revolution, there was a known enemy. Now we have woken up, overnight, with a virus whose provenance is not known, and which, we cannot know, how many more lives it will destroy in the next period.

Romania has turned into a valley of lamentation, where cemeteries are populated daily by graves. It has reached the fateful figure of 500 to 600 deaths per day, 500 families mourning their parents, grandparents and, worse, children. On top of all this, terror, uncertainty, poverty and despair, the health

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crisis, the economic crisis, the energy crisis, the political crisis and a ousted Government are installed for its inability to manage the situation.

Reality shows that the representatives of the state are too preoccupied with their own issues to remember what they were voted for by those who die daily by the hundreds, and not only because of the virus, but also because of the incompetence and carelessness to effectively manage the current situation. Romania still has specialists in medical and pharmaceutical research, as well as the ability to produce medicines. Why not appeal to these specialists, to people able to find solutions to prevent the devastating disease of Covid - 19, by testing the population, isolating the sick and medicines in pharmacies. About two years after the outbreak of this pandemic, we are in the most dire situation.

2. Avangarde Polls and the Future Perspective on Romania

In order to illustrate how serious the situation of the Romanian people is at the moment, during the pandemic crisis, during the period 17-26 October 2021, the sociologist Marius Pieleanu (the head of the Avangarde Sounding Institute - The Group of Socio-Behavioral Studies) conducted a series of surveys, to express the perspective of the Romanians on the Covid-19 pandemic and the future of Romania, full of economic and social uncertainties, but also politically. A probabilistic sample of 900 subjects was chosen, many of them belonging to the category of non-institutionalized adult population in the country, the margin of error being 3.2%, compared to the confidence coefficient of 95% of the total answers given. The method used to conduct these surveys was CATI (telephone interviews), and some of the results obtained were presented through the graphs below.

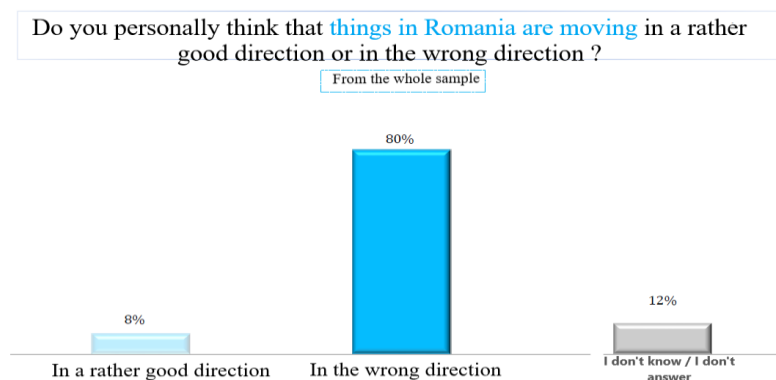


Figure 1. [1]

The first question concerns the direction in which things in Romania are heading, a wrong one or a good one? Of the total sample, alarming is the fact that 80% said that things in Romania have taken the wrong turn and that they are heading in the wrong direction in the future. Only 8% had the ability to say that it is likely that, in future, things will move in the right direction, while 12% did not know the answer or did not want to answer this question.

It is no wonder why we are heading in the wrong direction, as long as 500 people a day die at the ICU, burn hospitals and no one is taking any action in this regard, or, we are fast approaching a devastating economic crisis. If we ask ourselves who is guilty of this situation, let's especially resort to the second graph, which expresses the opinion of the Romanian people on how well the Covid-19 pandemic has been governed so far by the Romanian Government:

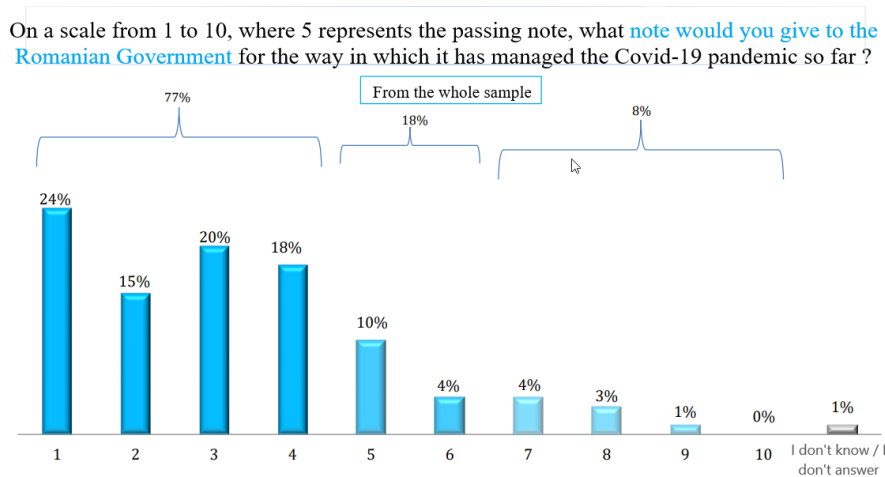


Figure 2. [1]

From the information presented in the graph above, it can be seen how erroneously the Covid-19 pandemic has been managed by the Romanian Government so far. On the scale from 1 to 10, where 5 signifies the passing mark, 77% of the total sample was pronounced for the marks from 1 to 4, with 24% giving the lowest score (1). Only 10% of the chosen sample made it clear that the Government has managed the Covid-19 pandemic better. In the case of others, the graph speaks for itself.

„You can't solve the problem of a debt with even greater debts” (Alan Brazil, Strategist at Goldman Sachs (2007-2016)[6].

Given the current problems in the country, we can say that the management system is managed inefficiently, or rather, the social and political responsibility of the Romanian state towards the people has decreased lately.

Romania is in a disastrous situation from a health, economic, political point of view and, in the next place, the price explosion that, of course, many will not be able to cope with. Referring to article 47 of the Romanian Constitution, which says: "The state is obliged to take measures of economic development and social protection, capable of ensuring a decent standard of living for citizens", to realize how well the Constitution has been respected, we have selected some data from Ziarul Financiar, regarding the public debt of Romania, in the approximately two years of government of the right-wing political coalition.

The public debt reached 528 billion lei in May 2021, which represents 49.7% of Romania's GDP. If in 2019, when the current Government took power, the public debt was 35.3% of GDP, this means that we have quickly approached the red line, according to the scheme presented below:

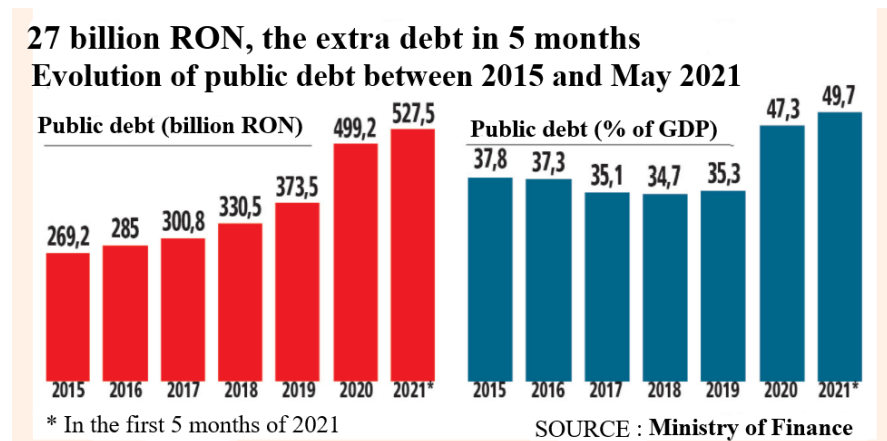


Figure 3.

Source : Edited after Razvan Botea [2]

To date, an additional 27 billion has been added, which means that the 50% threshold has been exceeded. To the question: „*Is the management system in Romania still managed correctly?*”, the answer is obvious that NO. In my opinion, too many errors have been produced from an economic, socio-political point of view, errors that have left a strong imprint on the factual situation in Romania.

Another opinion poll shows what is the main culprit for the disastrous pandemic situation in Romania, from the perspective of the Romanian citizens elected in this process of national recognition. The following graph illustrates the results obtained:

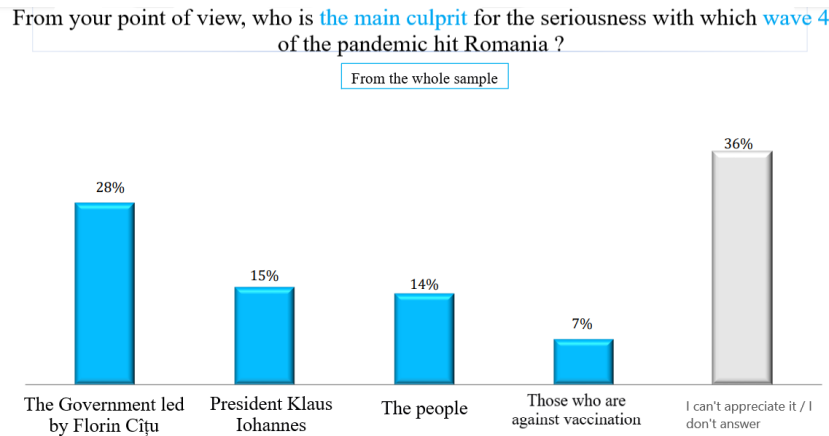


Figure 4. [1]

Here, the most worrying thing is not that 36% of the total sample did not appreciate or did not provide an answer, but the fact that 28% of the participants blamed the current Government of Romania, led by the ousted Prime Minister Florin Cîțu, for the gravity of wave 4 of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, 15% blame the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, for mismanagement of the pandemic crisis. 21% of the total sample either blames the population in general for this tragedy or those who are against vaccination.

Very interesting is what Thomas Jefferson once said: *"When a government is afraid of citizens, it's democracy. When citizens are afraid of government, it is dictatorship."* Not far from what is happening in today's reality, there are also certain citizens, especially those who took to the streets at the demonstrations, to protest against the restrictions imposed by the current Government. The majority said it was dictatorship, not democracy. Their freedoms and rights are no longer respected.

What to understand from the surveys presented above? If the Romanian Government is guilty of mismanaging this pandemic crisis, it means that we are no longer in democracy, but in dictatorship, according to the opinion of those elected in the sample, which is particularly serious. Democracy should be the fundamental basis of respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, not the means by which they can be suppressed at any time, minute, day. Human rights and freedoms can be constrained only when the individual in question no longer respects either the natural order of things or the laws of the people to which he belongs. In the case of a dictatorship, this constraint knows no limits, a fact that must never be reached in Romania again. In my opinion, sometimes restrictions are necessary, especially in the

case of a pandemic crisis of this kind, but those constraints should not be carried to the other extreme (of the dictatorship). People should understand the real reason why these restrictions are imposed, not be misinformed, as in most cases.

The reality is an edifying one not only from a socio-economic point of view, but also from a political point of view. The following graph shows us this:

From your point of view, who is **the main culprit for the current political crisis ?**

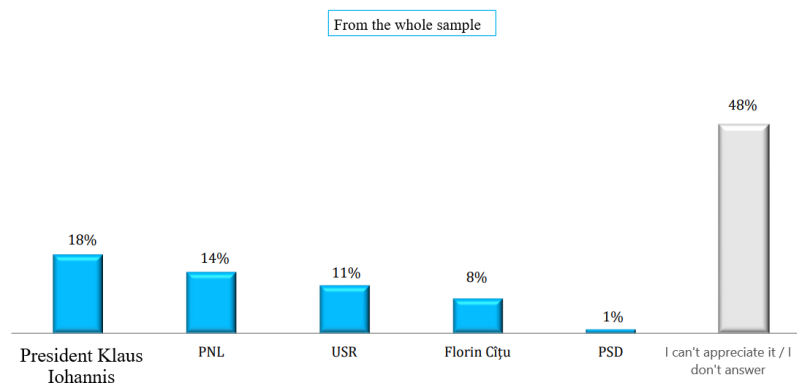


Figure 5. [1]

For the political crisis that has occurred in the country at the moment, out of the total sample, only 18% had the courage to accuse President Klaus Iohannis, the rest of them blaming the PNL, other parties and, including, the ousted Prime Minister Florin Cițu. However, 48% chose not to respond in the case.

It is alarming that, while people are dying at the ICU (the medicines necessary to treat the virus are completely missing), hospitals are burning, justice is on the ground, the problem of schools is unresolved (students protesting together with parents and teachers to reach a common denominator in this regard), vaccination is imposed by restrictions taken to the extreme (the issue of the green certificate at work), mass testing is lacking, the strong depression caused by the pandemic situation is destroying the thinking of some people (making them much more violent and fearful of why it could happen with their health or that of their relatives), we are approaching with sure steps towards an apocalyptic economic crisis (not only that, it is possible that mass food rationing will occur), the current government, the ousted prime minister and the political parties (including the USR), are fighting for power, for

functions. In the opinion of some specialists, we do not need this fight, we need urgent measures that will stop this pandemic crisis in the least.

The majority believes that the PSD, if it enters the government, can save something from the current pandemic crisis, can solve certain situations and we can return to normal. Some, however, disagree, losing confidence that something can still be resolved in this country, even in a year's time. The following graph shows the alarming situation:

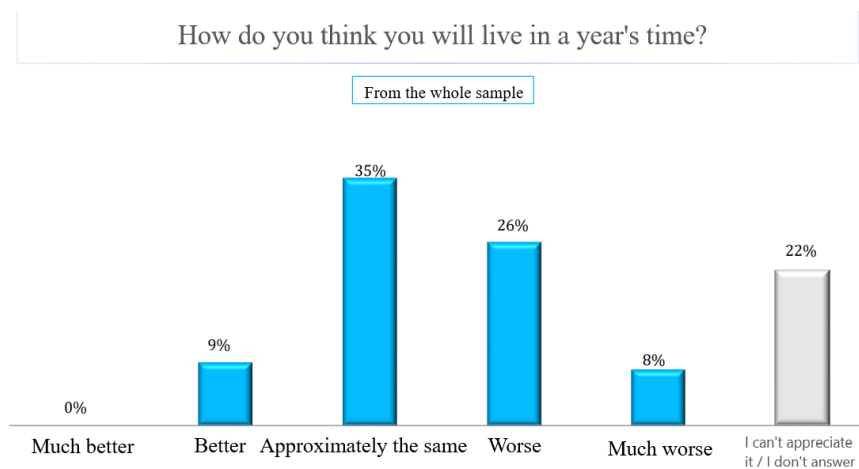


Figure 6. [1]

The alarming situation here does not lie in the fact that 35% said „*approximately the same*”, because it was to be expected given the political and economic crisis in Romania, but that to the answer „*Much better*”, taking into account the difference of 1 year, no one responded, the result obtained being 0%, which is particularly serious.

Devastating is also that, out of the total sample, 26% said „*Worse*”, which proves us, as in the first graphic table presented above, that Romania is indeed heading in the wrong direction, the fault being various socio-political factors, such as the Government, those who inefficiently manage the management system on all levels or, simply, the disinterest of political parties.

If we ask ourselves where the solution is, we could appeal to the opinions of some specialists in question, such as Mrs. Monica Pop (ophthalmologist) [5], who said the following: *"If mass testing is not introduced immediately, along with vaccination and mask, how do we know if someone is infected ? ! ! We don't know! Disastrous consequences!"* [4]. The following opinion poll shows us that the majority of the population agrees with mass testing, the solution proposed by Mrs. Monica Pop:

Do you think that Romania should, on the model of other European countries, offer a number of **tests free of charge**, weekly, to all citizens ?

From the whole sample

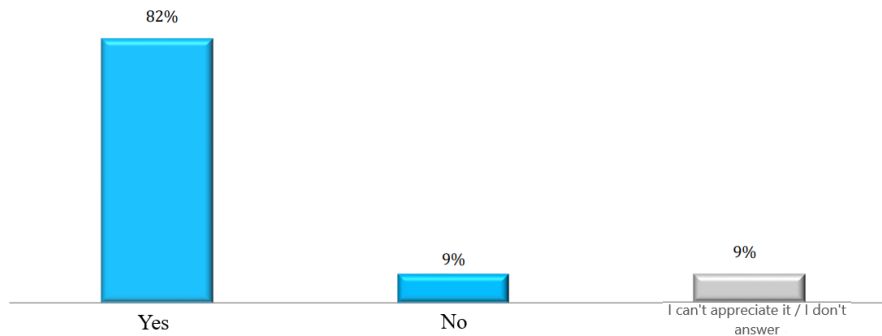


Figure 7. [1]

Out of the total number of participants interviewed, 82% considered that mass testing was necessary, opting for the free tests offered weekly by the Romanian state, a fact caused by the disastrous pandemic situation and by the model of other European states (such as Spain and Sweden), which, through this method, managed to get out of the impasse. This would be the solution for Romania at the moment. In my opinion, if mass testing is applied, including that of students, and those infected manage to get treated at home, sitting in isolation, this pandemic can stop.

The important thing is to want something to be done in this country, for the better. Through a high and well-established mentality, the management system can be modified so that the measures taken lead to an end to mass tragedies and to the saving of thousands of lives. The decisions we take, including in the case of early elections (if this happens), depend on the fate and future of Romania.

3. Conclusions

In conclusion, the installation of a Government capable of managing this pandemic, economic, political crisis and, most importantly, the price explosion, would be the solution to save Romania. In my opinion, the early elections would be another correct solution in this process of economic, social and political recovery of the Romanian people.

As far as vaccination is concerned, I believe that before this process, each individual should make a set of analyses for a correct assessment of the state of health and compatibility with that vaccine. Free testing of the population and isolation of the infested is the safest viable and fast solution. Testing can be done from child to elderly, without affecting health.

Health expert Karl Lauterbach [3] believes that it is the solution that can solve the problem. *Rapid tests*, explains the expert, *can not discover all the positive cases, but can discover the infectious cases and, it is extremely beneficial because the man, if he has the preventive medicines, avoids getting to the hospital*. My question is, why is vaccination free and testing is not ?

It goes without saying that retirees and low-income families cannot afford testing on their money. For this reason, the Romanian state must ensure the free of charge of these tests. In the context of the current situation, when social protection is only present on paper, the right to health is almost non-existent. When more than 500 of our fellows die daily and not through their fault, we ask ourselves whether Romania wants to be a normal country, in which according to Article 22 of the Constitution, *"the right to life and physical and mental integrity is guaranteed for every citizen"*.

The opinion polls, which I have presented above, reflect only a part of the suffering that Romania is currently going through. Overall, the situation is much more dire. The fact is that the inequities in the Romanian society are seen at every step and in all institutions. We cannot speak of equal opportunities, unless the word of the law is respected.

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