

HABILITATION THESIS

FORENSIC SCIENCE

PhD Professor ELENA-ANA IANCU

AII. Abstract of the habilitation thesis

Section I. Scientific, professional and academic achievements

B.i.1. Scientific achievements

Doctoral Thesis

I obtained the title of Doctor of Law CUM LAUDE in year 2004, from the “Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Law.

Title awarded by Order of the Minister of Education and Research no. 4450 of 02 August 2004, doctoral degree Series C, No. 0006740, of 04 October 2004.

Doctoral training period: 1999-2004

Thesis title: Persons' Identification by the Traces of the Papillary Prints (Identificarea persoanelor după urmele reliefului papilar)

Doctoral Thesis Advisor: PhD Prof. Ioan-Nuțu Mircea

The main disciplinary scientific research direction is forensic science. Most of the books, articles, grants/projects that I wrote, implemented or in whose implementation I participated as an external expert contained activities specific to forensic science.

Publication of books as author/co author – 7 specialty books including:

- 5 books as sole author;
- 2 books as first author, of which one published in English by a foreign publisher;
- 7 books after obtaining the doctoral degree.

Coordination of books – 3 books coordinated, of which a bilingual Romanian-Hungarian book, published by a foreign publisher.

Articles published as author/coauthor – 81 articles including:

- Full-length articles/studies published in journals of the international scientific flow or indexed in international databases recognized in the field of legal sciences (in accordance with Annex 1 to the Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports No. 4691/2011 and in accordance with Annex 24 – Legal Sciences Commission, published in the Official Journal of Romania, Part 1, No. 890/bis, 27.12.2012): **35**

- Full-length publications, published in the proceedings of the main specialized international conferences: **20**

- Scientific works and contributions published at scientific sessions and conferences: **26**

National research activity – in 2008 I carried out a research as part of the Fundamental Programme of the Romanian Academy, Interdisciplinary Programme for Preventing Major Risk Phenomena at National Scale, programme coordinator Academician Florin Gheorghe Filip.

International research activity: 3 research teams

I initiated and coordinated a research team consisting of teaching staff from: Agora University of Oradea municipality, Romania; University of Debrecen, Hungary; specialists from Oradea Border Police Directorate, Romania.

I was a member of two research teams composed of teaching staff from: Agora University of Oradea municipality, Romania; Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania; University of Artois, France.

Participation in national and international grants/projects: 13 participations including:

- 2 international grants as director;
- 1 international grant as a member – expert on internship monitoring;
- 1 international grant as a member – legal advice expert;
- 2 grants national as a member – scientific coordinator;
- 3 national grants as an expert – training expert;
- 1 national project as director;
- 3 national projects as a member.

Founder/initiator/co-organizer of scientific activity/research

I founded the Euroregional Centre for the Prevention and Fight against Cross-Border Criminality (Centrul Euroregional de Prevenire și Combatere a Criminalității Transfrontaliere – C.E.P.C.T.), in year 2008.

In 2007 I founded an annual conference (AILC), on topics from the field of legal sciences.

In 2007 I founded a law journal: AGORA International Journal of Juridical Sciences (AIJJS), in English, included in the international circuit, indexed in international databases from its first issue.

I organized and moderated (13 conferences), as well as numerous scientific events, book launches, symposia, workshops.

I am co-organizer of four editions of the Academic School of Sociology (SAS).

I attended national and international conferences, symposia, scientific sessions: 21 participations in other universities/institutions than those in which I worked.

B.i.2. Professional achievements

Throughout my professional activity, I thought about who I am, the things I do, the way I achieve them, my role in the community in which I live.

I tried early in my career, driven by an irrepressible passion for knowledge and for self-improvement, honesty, the willingness to learn and find new things, to make myself noticed, to remain preoccupied with study and writing, to acquire a solid legal culture, to remain active in society and reduce the moments in which I had a feeling of waste of time.

Since 1998 I have only been involved in legal higher education and at one point I was able to understand what my mission is, given by divine power, namely to pursue a teaching career.

I will briefly present below my professional achievements in relation to the national and international recognition which I consider to have earned.

At national level I obtained:

- The title of Doctor of Laws *Cum laude* for the innovations of the paper and the research quality throughout my doctoral studies;

- Diplomas of honour awarded by the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, the Romanian Forensic Association, the Romanian Journal of Forensic Science, for my contribution to the field of forensic science;

- Diploma of Excellence awarded by the City Hall of Tîrgu-Lăpuş for participation in the Academic School of Sociology, 6th edition;

- Diploma of Honour for promoting education in Tîrgu-Lăpuş;

- Diploma of Honour for my contribution to the accreditation of Bachelor's degree programmes: Law, Management, Accounting and Management Information Technology, and the authorization of the local Police undergraduate study programme.

I was included in a Fundamental Programme of the Romanian Academy, Interdisciplinary Programme for Preventing Major Risk Phenomena at National Scale, programme coordinator Academician Florin Gheorghe Filip (2008).

I successfully brought to its seventh edition the annual conference of law AILC, whose founder I am.

I was mentioned in the *Monograph of Bihor County*, Volume III, People of Bihor, 2010, at p. 194.

I am a member of professional centres/associations: the Romanian Forensic Association, the Union of Jurists of Romania, the National Association of Technicians, Experts and

Researchers in Public Services of General Interest, the Italian-Romanian Research Centre, EUROPE *DIRECT* Centre, AGORA University, North West, Oradea.

I am a trainer, COR Code 241205, with a certificate of graduation.

I consider the following professional achievements as a proof of my international recognition:

- I was invited to attend, as a lecturer, the courses of the Summer Academy for European Border Police, third session, held in Iași, Romania

- Since 2008 I have been a Jean Monnet Professor, invited every year to conferences abroad organized through the Jean Monnet Programmes;

- My being chosen as an expert on internship monitoring as a result of an international selection process in the grant “Further Institutional Capacity Building of the Public Ministry Especially in the Field of the Fight Against Organized Crime and Terrorism”;

- Positions of international influence:

- *Director of the Euroregional Centre for the Prevention and Fight against Cross-Border Criminality;

- *Manager of AGORA International Journal of Juridical Sciences, indexed in numerous databases internationally recognized;

- *Member of the editorial board of the journals: DREPTUL, Romania; Journal of Politics and Law, Canada; Law Review, Romania; European Scientific Journal, Macedonia;

- The initiation and coordination of an international academic research team;

- The citation of works whose author I am in internationally-circulated specialized literature.

B.i.3. Academic achievements

Since 1996, when I started work in the Forensic Laboratory of the Faculty of Legal Sciences, University of Oradea, to the present day, when I am a professor at Agora University of Oradea, I have studied, researched and prepared for the career that I am following.

I was aware that teaching in higher education is taking a responsibility towards the society in which we live, on the one hand by reference to the fellow human beings to whose professional training we contribute and, on the other hand, by reference to the institutions in the legal field for which we provide human resources.

Thus, the academic activities I have conducted were always at a high level, both in terms of pedagogical methods and of the scientific content of the course.

The continuous preparation of my teaching career, my passion for forensic science, the consistency in maintaining and developing the specialty taught, my irreproachable professional attitude throughout my academic/professional activity are evident, among other things, from the following:

- In 1998, after obtaining the Bachelor's degree, I enrolled in postgraduate studies of specialization in criminal law at the "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Law, whose curriculum included forensic science;

- In 1999 I joined the doctorate in law programme at the "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, with a proposition for a forensic specialization doctoral thesis;

- Since 1998, when I started teaching, until now, I have had forensic discipline included in my teaching workload every year;

- In 2006 I became Associate Professor, and in 2010 – Professor, on a forensic discipline position.

From 2004 to the present (2013) I have given lectures on the subject Criminology, and from 2006 to the present, I have also held courses for the discipline: Criminal Law. The Special Part.

Since 2008 I have been a Jean Monnet Professor, as holder of the European module entitled "The Free Movement of Persons Within the European Union".

My work has been highly appreciated at the level of the academic community, as well. In the period 2004-2006 I was elected member of the Board of the Faculty of Legal Sciences of the University of Oradea.

Currently I am in my second term (2012-2016) as a director of the Department of Social Sciences within Agora University of Oradea municipality.

I am a member of the Centre for Career Information, Guidance and Counseling (CICOC) of Agora University of Oradea municipality, holder of a training certificate (2010), COR Code 241205.

I went through all the stages of the annual evaluation and I obtained the necessary score to be confirmed as an expert evaluator for The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) in the Law field.

B. ii) Section II. Professional, scientific and academic career development plans

B.ii.1. Professional career development plans

After obtaining each scientific title/teaching position, I have constantly tried to remain present and active in the academic world, to expect more from myself in my early career.

My present wish is to receive the habilitation certificate confirming my ability to supervise PhD candidates in the field of legal sciences, specialization in forensic science. This is the discipline that I have taught year after year, since early in my professional career, irrespective of the academic title that I had.

Obtaining the habilitation certificate will give me the opportunity to develop my career through the findings of the research studies that I will propose for the doctoral theses, during which period I will continue my documentation effort in order to propose innovative themes and comparative studies in the field of forensic science, being aware that what is new in one country/part of the world may be outdated in another country/part of the world, whether we are talking of the technique, tactics or methodology of the forensic investigation.

I will also continually seek to participate actively in the development of the field of law, especially of forensic science, trying to make myself known, both nationally and internationally.

To achieve this goal, I intend to continue establishing relationships with specialists of judicial practice, especially forensic science practitioners, and with academic communities from our country and from abroad, in order to be an active member in a large number of professional associations, contest committees of Romanian and foreign universities.

In the future I will be just as interested in writing projects and accessing European funding as before, an approach which will allow me to augment the core of specialists already working at the centre, to intensify the interdisciplinary professional networking with colleagues from the country and from abroad. It will also provide a certain degree of professional mobility.

With dedication and passion for the field of legal sciences, with its specific disciplines, taking into account the need for interdisciplinary connections and for interactivity of the teaching staff from Romanian and foreign university centres, *I aim to enhance activities related to the legal field as an organizer, to participate in the activities organized by other colleagues, to continue taking part in voluntary actions on the line of preventing crime and ensuring the safety of the community, and not only.*

As a trainer I intend to continue my involvement in professional training programmes for which I have the skills and abilities, so that through the projects that I propose and the courses I attend, I can complete my career and constantly interact with the members of the community in which I live.

I intend to diversify *my collaboration with other universities in the country* with a view to extending my possibilities to teach/research in the thematic directions of disciplines that are within my area of interest.

In conclusion, I will always endeavour to be active in society and in the academic community, which may contribute to better human and spiritual understanding and to the development of my professional career.

B.ii.2. Scientific career development plans

My general goal for the development of my scientific career is to continue doing research, to contribute to the development of research studies of high scientific standard, to maintain and intensify my presence in the virtual space dedicated to science, especially in relation to the field of law and forensic science, in order to enhance the national and international visibility of the research results.

In order to achieve this general objective, I intend to use the means at my disposal which I have developed and diversified by myself in the past, and, at the same time, remain attentive, responsive and combative in identifying opportunities that may arise to support my undertakings.

As probable modes of action for the implementation of the above propositions, I will enumerate the following:

- *To carry out a high-level scientific activity as editor-in-chief of AGORA International Journal of Juridical Sciences (AIJJS).*
- *To enhance my scientific review work as a member of the editorial boards of specialized journals;*
- *To continue my work as an organizer and moderator of conferences, symposia, debates, in their classical form, as well as through participation in specialized TV programmes, including by using the virtual communication environment;*
- *To diversify the scientific research topics in a multidisciplinary direction;*
- *As a Jean Monnet Professor, I intend to continue my scientific work in the international community of Jean Monnet Professors, attending annual conferences organized*

under the auspices of the Jean Monnet programmes, both with interdisciplinary law – European integration lectures and with individual research studies highlighting the importance of knowing the peculiarities of specialty disciplines, particularly of forensic science and criminal law, for specialists in European integration, in an effort to bring together individual voluntary actions or those organized at institutional level to prevent and combat crime;

- I intend to submit a project through the Jean Monnet programme in order to obtain a *Jean Monnet Chair in the field of criminal sciences* (two courses in the field of forensic science and one of criminal law);

- I aim to increase the number of scientific research contracts, so that I may coordinate new international research teams including, on the one hand, former colleagues, and on the other hand, extended to other universities and institutions performing specific forensic science activities which may be the basis for international grants;

- I will continue writing specialty books, courses revised and enlarged, forensic science treatises or dictionaries, currently being working as sole author on a “*Dictionary of Forensic Science*” and a new revised and enlarged edition of the book entitled “*Methodology of Crime Investigation*”.

To conclude, in my scientific career as well, I intend to remain an active professor whose CV should include new achievements each year, showing my contribution to the development of forensic science, through the bibliographic sources that I supply for the persons interested, specialists and teaching staff, PhD candidates and MA students, students, as well as through the new technical and scientific means I intend to purchase through the projects that I coordinate.

B ii.3. Academic career development plans

For the development of my academic career, obtaining *the certificate of habilitation* would be an important and timely achievement. I am aware that the success of this undertaking will bring me greater responsibility towards prospective doctoral students and towards the entire national and international scientific community, as I would become the coordinator of the research studies whose theme I will also propose.

Thus, by the way in which I will continue working for the development of my academic career, in applying the teaching science in the education of students in Bachelor’s, Master’s, doctoral programmes, and through additional, individual study to improve my art of teaching, I plan to become a better professor, passionate, avid for knowledge and eager to share the

latest findings, especially in the field of forensics, but also of criminal law, with a critical approach towards the opinions expressed by theorists and practitioners on topics that are in my field of interest.

For me, forging an academic career has been and remains a priority. This is evident from the fact that my first job was in a university (forensic laboratory operator, 1996) and since then, I have gone starting with 1998 (when I graduated my second college) through all academic ranks, obtaining through contest all the academic positions open for competition in the two universities in which I have worked.

My only workplace has been in a university, being aware that only with patience, perseverance and dedication to the career I have chosen, I could gain the consideration, recognition and respect of my peers.

I want to remain an *important member in the executive team of the academic community* that I belong to and, at some time, become a mentor to my younger colleagues.

I intend to lend greater importance to the *exchange of experience* with teams of specialists from abroad, to attending and holding lectures in universities abroad and to exploiting opportunities to become an international visiting professor. This way, I will be able to improve my teaching act, to better understand academic realities in other countries, to be a better guide for students who want to take advantage of the existing student mobility opportunities at a given time.

As regards the *teacher – student relationship component*, I intend to be as responsive as in the past to issues raised by the students, whether they concern the quality, interactivity, availability shown in the educational act, or practice-related activities, advice or counseling to students.

B.ii.4. Directions of research/teaching

1. *The forensic discipline thematic direction.* Forensic Science has been (for 16 years) and will remain, with God's help, my main direction of research/teaching, at the level of Bachelor's, Master's degrees or postgraduate courses.

Upon obtainment of the habilitation certificate, my main area of research will be forensic science, whether I will be developing narrowly specialized research studies or addressing the topics proposed for interdisciplinary research.

In the same vein, I further intend to accept the position of lecturer on topics of forensic science at summer school courses organized by research institutes and centres, by institutions

with duties in the line of forensic science or of ensuring the safety of persons or by other universities in the country or abroad.

2. *The criminal law discipline thematic direction.* Criminal Law. The Special Part is another direction of teaching/research of major interest to me, being the discipline that I have been teaching since 2006 and which completes my knowledge in the field of criminal sciences. I want this to be a discipline that I can teach at Bachelor's degree level in the future as well, as it gives me the opportunity to address forensic science from an interdisciplinary perspective, particularly in the part regarding the methodology of crime investigation.

3. *The thematic direction of forensic science – migration.* By teaching the Jean Monnet course "*The Free Movement of Persons Within the European Union*" throughout the implementation of the grant, I want to extend my interdisciplinary knowledge particularly regarding the migration phenomenon, the prevention of cross-border criminality in relation to the forensic technique used, but also in terms of human rights protection and crime prevention.

In conclusion, my goal is to never surrender to weariness and self-complacency, even when, upon an objective self-evaluation, I will find myself having a well-established academic career. With God's help, I hope to never forget my mission in the academic community that I belong to, my accountability to the profession that I chose and, consequently, to avoid the decline of my academic career.

With the belief that success will give me wings and failures will strike the balance and motivate me, with faith in the power of nature, I will try to fulfill my professional dreams, to respond to society's requirements and to the tests of life as well as I can, in order to earn a place among the specialists of legal sciences, especially of forensic science.