

# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MODEL - STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Aurelian LAVRIC<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Associate professor, PhD, senior researcher, Centre for Defense and Security Strategic Studies, Alexandru cel Bun Armed Forces Military Academy, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova  
Corresponding author: Aurelian Lavric; e-mail: aurelianlavric@hotmail.com

## Abstract

The problem of building and consolidating the state of the Republic of Moldova is closely related to the models that the government and the society adopt, assimilate and implement, in order to achieve the desired results. It is a problem of mentality and approach. Building the wealth of the nation and strengthening the international power and prestige of the state are directly dependent on the assimilation and implementation of the successful formulas of the rich and powerful states. The EU Member States serve as example for the Republic of Moldova. Proximity to the EU community represents an important advantage for the Moldovan nation. The Western path of economic consolidation and the building of an open, competitive society must represent significant goals, since they lead to the building and strengthening of the state of the Republic of Moldova. The fact that the EU is open to help Moldova on this way represents an invaluable benefit. Examples such as China or the "East-Asian Tigers" – states like Singapore and others, which implemented advanced Western approaches – represent a clear argument for Moldova to develop its economy in an innovative and competitive way, in order to consolidate the society and the state.

**Keywords:** *Western model, strategy, state building, state consolidation, Republic of Moldova.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The reborn state of the Republic of Moldova (its independence was proclaimed on August 27, 1991) is confronted with a lot of problems, which have to represent the object of the government's preoccupation and the object of study for scientific researchers, in order to obtain a practical contribution to the building and consolidation of a robust state body, resilient to all the challenges of the contemporary world – which stem both from the interior and from the exterior. The main goals of the government from Chişinău have to be *the building and the consolidation* of the state, and

these purposes also have to be shared by the society and implicitly by the scientific community.

How can these goals be met? In order to achieve them, it is necessary to solve a number of problems that the society and the state are confronted with. One of them is the problem of *poverty* (LAVRIC, 2018). In order to solve it a strategic approach is required (LAVRIC, 2017a), that of adopting an innovative approach in all the fields of the society (including, or mainly, in the economic field) (LAVRIC, 2017b). Without solving the problem of poverty, one cannot talk about the building and consolidation of a viable state and of a modern society. In order to do so, authorities have to eliminate the main causes: corruption and dilapidation from the state budgets. Only by doing so will the government succeed in overcoming the numerous crisis that the state and the society are confronted with.

In this regard, it is necessary to reform all the states' fields of activity: justice, economy, social assistance, education, culture, police, army etc., so that they correspond with current requirements – the standards of the developed countries. The reform is, in fact, an adjustment to a model that a state adopts to be followed. The concept of *European integration*, which appeared in the Republic of Moldova represents, in fact, the expression of the state's adjustment to the working model of the EU member states and to the values and principles of the community. De jure, the process of European integration will begin when Republic of Moldova will become an EU member state; one cannot integrate into a space to which it does not belong. De facto, integration takes place now, by assuming and implementing *the Western model* – in other words,

by *modernization* and by *Europeanisation*. Scientific researchers focus on analysing the models that the country could adopt and they have to demonstrate which one (and why) represents the best option.

The EU's willingness to grant assistance regarding the adoption (take-over and implementation) by the states of Eastern Europe – the six states from the former Soviet Union, which are part of the Eastern Partnership EU Program – of the Western model is clearly present in the Association Agreements (AA) signed by the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia with the EU. The document represents a window of opportunity, but it depends on how it will be valued by the authorities of the Eastern European states and by their citizens (especially by the economic agents who are offered various opportunities following the agreement regarding the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), which is part of the AA). Assistance in implementing the Western model (experience, know-how) on behalf of the EU and of the member states is much more important than financial support.

It is obvious that changing the way of acting is about changing the approach and the *mentality*. In order to increase and consolidate the power of the state in the Republic of Moldova and to build a prosperous society one has to identify the factors that need to exist in this regard (practically, we speak about achieving the Copenhagen criteria – established by the Council of the EU from Copenhagen, in July 1993, confirmed by the Council of the EU from Madrid in December 1995, which have to be fulfilled by all the states that want to adhere to the European Union): (i) political criteria (stable institutions which guarantee democracy, the Rule of Law, respecting the rights of individuals and minorities), (ii) economic criteria (a functional market economy) and (iii) incorporation into the national legislation of the Community *acquis*. In order to implement a functional market economy it is necessary for the Republic of Moldova to turn account the comparative advantage, the resources (especially the human resources, by stopping mass emigration in search of jobs), the use of the EU proximity, with whom the Republic of Moldova shares common borders, in order to develop, as

efficiently as possible, the regional transborder cooperation with the EU on the whole and with each of the member states, in part, in virtue of the interest shown by the EU for its Eastern neighbours, to increase its role as an actor in relation to the states included in the Eastern Partnership program.

Referring to the significance of transborder regional cooperation it is important to take into account the statement made by Winfred Schneider-Deters, manager of the Kiev Office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, made at the scientific congress entitled “Moldova, Romania, Ukraine: good neighbourhood and regional cooperation”, in October 1998: “Regional cooperation between Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine presents an extremely important significance as there is the danger that because of the different pace of the European integration process, on the western borders of Ukraine and of the Republic of Moldova, a new curtain may drop. This may not be an iron curtain – but it will divide Europe once again” (MOȘNEAGA, 1998). That particular fear did not however come true, but the danger of deepening the discrepancies regarding the standard of living and the income levels of the population from the EU and the Eastern European countries still exists. The poorer the Eastern countries become, the more incompatible will they be with the EU, regardless of their stated pro-European aspiration.

The practical significance of the current study refers to the attempt to prove the hypothesis which states that assimilation (take-over and implementation) of the Western model represents the only way in which the state of the Republic of Moldova can be strengthened and consolidated and this significantly determines the guarantee for a good national security. The paper starts from the hypothesis that assimilating the Western model represents the provision which leads to an efficient building and consolidation of the state and of the society. The article offers an answer to the question why the assimilation of the Western model represents the optimum way to build a viable state and to consolidate that particular state.

The research problem represents the identification of the optimum way of building

and strengthening the state of the Republic of Moldova. Among the goals of the article one can enumerate: the presentation of the development models currently existing in the world, the comparison between the Republic of Moldova and different states from different groups, reunited according to a certain criterion etc. This particular topic was chosen to be analysed because in the 28 years following its independence, The Republic of Moldova did not yet manage to achieve its most important goal: the creation of a viable and powerful state. This topic is worth studying because it is very topical: the continuous flux of migrants from the Republic of Moldova who go abroad in search of jobs, generating numerous social problems (including for their children who are deprived of their parents' care) can be stopped by building a modern and prosperous state. The research question is: How can the state from the Republic of Moldova be consolidated and strengthened? The proposed hypothesis is: the assimilation (take-over and implementation) of the Western development model represents a strategic contribution to the building and strengthening of the state of the Republic of Moldova.

Chapter 2 represents a brief review of the relevant bibliographic sources on the topic. Chapter 3, refers to dates and methodology: the items that need to be used in order to measure the variables of a country's development according to the Western model; the sources for the data used and what research methods can be used in investigating the topic. The conclusions present the implications of the analysis, the problems encountered during the research as well as some directions for future research.

## **2. ASSIMILATION OF THE WESTERN MODEL: BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW**

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There are numerous authors who wrote about the benefits of assimilation (take-over and implementation) of the Western model. Among them we include Ștefan Zeletin (ZELETIN, 1991) who dedicated his book to the promoter of the Western (capitalist) model in Romania – the Romanian bourgeoisie. The origin of the capitalist model in Romania (of the Romanian bourgeoisie)

was due to England's influence, which led to the *economic revolution*: "the transition of our national economy in the phase of exchange, under the influence of foreign capital" (ZELETIN, 1991). This phenomenon appeared especially starting with the year 1828 – when the Peace of Adrianople was signed (KING, 2015). This treaty gave England as well as other European countries the right to access the Black Sea to trade with the riparian countries and those from the extended Black Sea region. The harbour Galati (from Moldova) and Braila (din Wallachia) soon became grain outlets for Western European importers, especially for those from England. Up to that moment Republic of Moldova had to sell its agricultural products (cereals, but also meat, fish, honey, etc.) in the Ottoman metropolis – Istanbul. Since then Moldova and Wallachia started to possess the name "the granary of Europe." Following the 1839 Hünkârîskelesi treaty "the Turkish people agreed to stop, at the request of the tsar, the crossing of the foreign ships through Dardanelle, a stipulation which brought worry to the western chanceries regarding Russian's manoeuvres in the Near East" (KING, 2015). The commerce in the Black Sea, implicitly with the participation of Moldova had reached such high standards that Russia, which wanted to take-over the resources from the region, determined the closing of the straits for the English ships etc.

Subsequently, after the economic revolution from Moldova (a state vasaal to Turkey, but which gained, in 1829, following the Treaty of Adrianople, Russian protection, together with Wallachia) and from other regions of the Black Sea, in Moldova and Wallachia a *political revolution* took place in 1848, under the collapse of the revolution in France. During the 1848 revolution in the Danube principalities Moldova and Wallachia the liberal revolutionary ideas from France – those from the Napoleonic Code – were adopted: "respect for the people, respect for the propriety." Zeletin concludes that: "The birth of the Romanian bourgeoisie is due to the expansion of the English capitalism" (ZELETIN, 1991). This fact led to the takeover of the Western economic model in Moldova and Wallachia and the integration of Moldova and Wallachia in the European capitalist circuit, dominated during those times by England.



The Romanian political scientist Daniel Barbu referred to the modernizing process of Romania which represented exactly the takeover of the Western model. Barbu wrote: "We may have to present the modernisation of Romania as a two-face phenomenon. One face presents activities such as the production, placement and consumption", referring to "the laws of liberal economy" and "their presence in institutions." The second face of modernity is the political one, or better said, that of the political practices and discourses, of the political forms, of the choice of the object that it exclusively attributes itself to and of the methods that it applies (BARBU, 1997). From Barbu's presentation we understand that the Western model is made of *economic and politic* elements.

One should also notice Alexis De Tocqueville's 1992 work "About democracy in America" in which the author presents the virtues of the American model. Referring to "the character of the Anglo-Saxon civilisation," Tocqueville notes that: "it is the product (and we must always remember this starting point) of two perfectly distinct elements, which have often fought in other regions, but in America they somehow managed to become incorporated and admirably combined. I refer to *the religious spirit* and to *the spirit of freedom*" (DE TOCQUEVILLE, 1992). Regarding the religious spirit - the protestant ethics of capitalism - the Austrian sociologist Max Weber (WEBER, 1993) also wrote about and he proved that the Western capitalist model is based on Christian ethics. This model cannot be understood without taking into account labour ethics and the ethics of the relationships between producers and consumers.

In the context of the topic of assimilation (take-over and implementation of the Western model) it is worth presenting Brian Tracy's approach, a Canadian (established in California, USA) author of motivational books. Tracy's recommendations are viable both for individuals and for the governments of the countries which are interested in modernisation. Tracy expressed his assertion using *the laws of cause and effect*: "This law says that any achievement, wealth, happiness, prosperity or success represents the direct or indirect effect or result of a cause or specific action. This means that if the effect or the

result that you want is clear, you will probably achieve it. You may analyse other people who achieved the same goal and by doing the same as them you may obtain the same results" (TRACY & STRUTZEL, 2019). In the case of the emerging countries, such as the Republic of Moldova, it is required to analyse the developed countries who achieved their desired goal - the building and consolidation of a viable state - and by doing the same as them, assimilating (taking over and implementing) their development model, you may obtain the same results.

The 2013 study belonging to the American researcher David S. Landes "The wealth and the poverty of nations. Why some countries are so rich, and others so poor" is of great help in researching the topic of this article. In the context of the financial assistance of the European Union for the Republic of Moldova and for the other states from the Eastern Partnership Program, it is worth noticing the following aspects: "History tells us that the most suitable remedies for poverty come from the inside. Foreign support can be of help, but exactly like a fortune that falls from the sky, it can also harm. It can discourage the effort and build a mutilated conscience of incapability. (...) work, consideration, sincerity, patience and tenacity matter" (LANDES, 2013). In other words, for Republic of Moldova, the EU experience of implementing the Western model is more important than financial assistance.

In the paper "Civilisation. The West and the Rest", the Scottish author Niall Ferguson (2014) presented "the winning formula of the West (the Western model). Ferguson asked himself "for how much time will the West succeed to preserve the scientific advantage that, together with others, was based on its military superiority for so much time?" Or maybe we may formulate the question differently. Could a non-western power really benefit from adopting the Western scientific knowledge, if it continues to reject the other essential part of the winning formula of the West: the third institutional innovation, the one regarding the right to the private propriety, the Rule of the Law and the truly representative government?" (FERGUSON, 2014).

Concluding this short literature review of the few authors who wrote on the topic of the assimilation of the Western model, we notice a

few notions used by them in presenting the topic: labour and interhuman relationship ethics, modernisation - alongside its economic and political aspects, efficient institutions, scientific research - whose results are at the basis of the achievements from the economic and military fields, the Rule of Law, guarantee of the private property and of the economic and democratic freedoms (a representative government) etc.

### **3. INDEXES AND METHODOLOGY**

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In presenting the topic of this article it is necessary to analyse some official figures, referring to economic indexes (GDP per capita, economic growth, commercial balance, the volume of external debt, the volume of remittances from Moldovan citizens working abroad etc.). In the context of a comparative approach, it is important to compare the economic indexes of the Republic of Moldova with those of other countries, especially of the countries from the group that the Republic of Moldova is part of - the six states of the Eastern Partnership Program (launched in 2009), within the European Neighbourhood Policy (launched in 2004). In this context, it is most useful to compare the Republic of Moldova with the states who have declared their pro-European option - Ukraine and Georgia. However, a comparison with the other Post-Soviet states, not only with those from the Eastern Partnership - Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia, but also with the states from Middle Asia can be useful in understanding the development stage of the Republic of Moldova and in identifying the approaches that may improve the current state of the country.

Also, it is useful to compare the indexes of the Republic of Moldova with those from the other states who wish to become EU members, such as the states from the Western Balkans: Albania, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina etc. Up to this point, the Republic of Moldova and Albania are situated close together in the ranking of the poorest countries in Europe. However, since the goal of Republic of Moldova is to adhere to the EU, it is important to compare the indexes of the country with those of the states that recently became part of the EU - Romanian and Bulgaria. It would also be interesting to compare the

Republic of Moldova by means of the economic development indexes with the smaller EU states, similar to its dimensions. An example would be the comparison with Luxembourg - total surface 2,586 km<sup>2</sup> (537,853 inhabitants - according to the last census), compared to 33.846 km<sup>2</sup> (2.998.235 inhabitants - according to the last census in 2014). Although it is a very small country, Luxembourg represents one of the wealthiest countries in the world (GDP per capita: \$ 66.821), being an example for the Republic of Moldova (\$ 8.400).

From a geopolitical point of view, Moldova has represented, during the centuries, a buffer between neighbouring empires: Habsburg, Ottoman and Russian. The state managed to persevere itself up to the present due to its skilful manoeuvring among the interests of the great powers. Nevertheless, the Moldovan state was disintegrated a few times by the empires mentioned above: in 1484 Turkey annexed the cities of Maurocastro (White Fortress) and Licostomo (Chilia), together with the surrounding areas, transforming them in territories under the Turkish jurisdiction and in which the Turkish law was applied; in 1538 the Turkish sultan Suleyman the Magnificent annexed Bugeac to Tighina - offering Bugeac to a horde of tartars, who established their administrative centre in Causeni, and at Bender they fortified the citadel on Nistru; in 1715 the Hotin citadel was annexed to the surrounding area; in 1774 the Habsburg Empire annexed the North-Western part of the country and they named it Bukovina; in 1882 the Russian Empire annexed the Eastern part of the country and they named it Bessarabia.

The *permanent neutrality* status, enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, adopted on July 29, 1944, represents the expression of the state's identity. Due to this orientation, the Republic of Moldova is compared to Switzerland - a neutral state with a very high level of economic development. After the fall of the Soviet Union, there was an idea to turn Republic of Moldova into a Switzerland of the East. The comparison with Switzerland is useful since, the same as the state from the Alps, the Republic of Moldova represents a multi-ethnic society, with significant minorities: Ukrainian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, Russian etc. From this point of view, one can also compare the Republic of

Moldova with Belgium, which despite some conflicts between the two important communities of the country - Walloon and Flemish - manages to represent a European state with great economic performances. Another state with two linguistic communities (anglophone and francophone) which manage to live together in harmony, remarkably developing the economics of the country, is Canada. The specificity of this type of states is that they are not *nations-states* (such as Iceland, Armenia and to some extent Israel, Germany etc.), but *state-nations* (such as the USA, the UK, France, Spain etc.), always pursuing the goal of consolidating a multi-ethnic, multicultural, multilinguistic and multi-confessional society. The Republic of Moldova is included in the list of state-nations and this is why the goal of consolidating a multi-ethnic, multicultural, multilinguistic and multi-confessional society has to represent a priority for the authorities in Chişinău. Achieving this goal is eased by the confessional identity - Christian-Orthodox, characteristic to the most important ethnic communities in the Republic of Moldova. Therefore, it is useful to compare the Republic of Moldova with the orthodox states of the EU: Greece, Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria, which may represent efficient examples of the take-over of the Western model, respectively for an accelerated economic development of the country. Going back to the status of permanent neutrality, it would be interesting to compare the Moldovan state with the other neutral EU states: Finland, Sweden, Austria, Cyprus, Malta and Ireland. Cyprus represents a special example for the Republic of Moldova - we speak about a state with a frozen territorial conflict (in the northern part of the island), that managed to enter the EU due to its economic performances. The experience of the non-EU neutral states - Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Andorra and San Marino - is also worth studying. Of course, in order to obtain a state of permanent neutrality it is necessary for it to be acknowledged by the other states of the world and by the United Nations. And, since on the territory of the Republic of Moldova there are foreign military troops (in Transnistria), the status of neutrality has more of a declarative character, than a practical one. In order to achieve

this status of neutrality it is necessary to assimilate the Western development model.

From the point of view of implementing the Western development model, there are some East Asian countries which may represent useful models for the Republic of Moldova, since they reached very high levels of economic growth: Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan. Being small in terms of surface and lacking mineral resources (terrestrial and/or aquatic), they managed to reach a high level of economic development.

Even a large country - such as China - has to represent an assimilation (take-over and implementation) example of the Western model, mainly due to its economic - capitalist component. However, for the Republic of Moldova it is vitally necessary to assimilate the whole Western model, including its political dimension: democracy, State of Law, respecting the human rights, political pluralism etc.

In order to build the Republic of Moldova as a viable state it is useful to study the development of Turkey. After the fall of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey tried to modernize the state, managing to obtain a high level of development, today being one of the countries with remarkable indexes when it comes to economic growth, and as a result it turned into a significant geopolitical factor in the region. Besides this, the comparison between the Republic of Moldova and the states which focus on offering state-of-the-art services in the tourist sector - Andorra, Turkey etc. - including the countries that offer agritourist services, through board and lodging, would be beneficial.

An essential and vital goal for the authorities in Chişinău is to transform the Republic of Moldova from *object* to *subject* of the international relations, from consumer to security supplier in the Eastern Europe region. In order to do so, the Republic of Moldova has to achieve a functional market economy, which has to ensure the international prestige of the country and to provide the necessary expenses in order to strengthen the defence system. This goal can be met by adopting and implementing the Western development model, both economically and politically. By achieving a viable state, the Republic of Moldova will become attractive to



the population from the area of Transnistria and this will solve the conflict in the area.

The official data referring to various economic indexes (GDP per capita, commercial balance, the index for the perception of corruption etc.), both for quantitative and qualitative analysis, is offered by the National Bureau of Statistics from the Republic of Moldova, but it can also be found in reports of the government, of the ministries and of the governmental agencies.

Among the methods used in analysing the topic of the present article one can enumerate: the historical method, the comparative method, descriptive methods (observation), the quantitative and qualitative method, analysis, synthesis, the statistical method, the sociological method, etc.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

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In the 28 years of independence since the fall of the Soviet Union and the declaration of its political independence, the Republic of Moldova still remain a rudimentary state, which is not able to obtain significant performances in the economic, political and social fields, it is divided and presents a frozen, yet unsolved conflict (the Transnistrian conflict). Actually, the object of achieving political and economic independence for the Republic of Moldova still remains one that has to be followed. The justice system is still problematic and its reformation represents one of the major requirements in order to receive financial assistance from the European Union.

At present, the Moldovan state needs consolidation, in order to affirm itself as a respected actor in the international arena. This requires a vision, a policy, a strategy and a program (plan) in order to build and consolidate the state. The Republic of Moldova has to reform its entire state system (justice, politic, economic, social, media) by referring to a model which proved its efficiency in other states. This model worth following (take-over and assimilate) by the Republic of Moldova is the Western one and Moldova's proximity to the European Union represents an enormous advantage in comparison to the other Post-Soviet countries, both those from Transcaucasia and those from Middle Asia. Assimilating (take-over and implementation) the

Western model represents a strategic contribution to the building and strengthening of the Republic of Moldova's state.

The European Union supports the modernisation of the Republic of Moldova, including by offering financial support, which is highly necessary for the government in Chişinău. However, for the authorities of the Republic of Moldova it might be useful to ask the European Union for help especially in obtaining experience, know-how, and not necessarily money. It is similar to that famous saying: you have to ask for the angle, not for the fish. The Republic of Moldova has to benefit from the experience of the European Union and of its member states regarding the building of the state and the consolidation of the society, according to the standards of the community space, in the virtue of implementing the Western model. From this perspective, the strategic goal of the government in Chişinău should be to achieve a viable state and only subsequently the adherence of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union. Adherence would represent a consequence of implementing the Western model in the Republic of Moldova, and this would make the state of Moldova become compatible with the political, economic and social environment of the European Union. Basically, the European integration of the Republic of Moldova begins when the Moldovan state will be part of the European Union. Up to that moment, a reformation, transformation and adaptation effort is required in order to implement the Western model. It is the same when it comes to solving the conflict in Transnistria: it is counterproductive for the authorities in Chişinău to try to solve the conflict prior to implementing the Western model – this will increase the life standards of the population from the right bank of the Nistru river and the Moldovan state will become attractive for the population on the left bank of the Nistru river. Therefore, a way to solve the conflict in Transnistria is to assimilate (take-over and implement) the Western model in the Republic of Moldova.

Among the implications of the analysis present in this article is the stimulation of the government from Chişinău to proceed with determination to assimilate (take-over and implement) the Western

model. It is necessary to be aware of the fact this represents a strategic effort in order to build a viable state. In this regard, it is necessary to explain the significance of this goal to the Moldovan society. Only after this goal will be assumed by the entire society, it will be successfully achieved. According to surveys, around 50% of the population of the Republic of Moldova is still oriented towards the East, towards an integration in the Eurasian Economic Union, therefore towards the model from that geopolitical space. The improvement of the economic indexes has to represent the results of the implementation of the European standards, also preserving the Eastern markets.

Basically, there isn't much of a choice for the Moldovan authorities when it comes to the development model. Certainly, the Chinese model is not a suitable one for the Republic of Moldova, because of its totalitarian component in the political field, by guaranteeing the political monopoly of the Chinese Communist Party, ensuring its leadership of the entire social and political life. The austerity models, such as those from Belarus or the Russian Federation are also not suitable for the Republic of Moldova. The Western model is surely the most suitable one for the Moldovan state, both because it has already proved its efficiency in the states of the European space, and because the Republic of Moldova shares numerous common values with the Western European countries, being part of the *Latin* family (of states who use languages from the Romanic family of languages) and of the *Christian* family - of states in which the majority of population is Christian.

The deficiencies in implementing the Western model - the Association Agreement signed by the Republic of Moldova with the European Union on June 27, 2014 - are mainly due to the poor understanding between a part of the population and a part of the state administration, at every level, regarding the importance of assimilating this respective model.

Future research should focus on more complex interdisciplinary approaches. The field of Security and Defence Studies values more the more *the economic component*: only by building a functional market economy (and this can be achieved by implementing *the Western model*) can the national

security of the Republic of Moldova be ensured. *Economic security* represents an essential component of *national security*, and this is why there is a natural convergence between Security and Defence Studies and Economic Studies.

Among the research methods we have the comparative studies, referring to the comparison between the Republic of Moldova and other states from various categories - neutral, multi-ethnic, Post-Soviet, with the majority of the population Christian etc. - regarding their development. The use of the historical method, together with the comparative one, is necessary particularly in this context.

The assessment of regional cooperation is highly necessary since it represents the barometer for the sustainable development of the Moldovan economy, which has to be oriented towards export, in order to balance the commercial balance. Exports in the EU states represent a salvation and a development opportunity of the economy of the Republic of Moldova.

In order to successfully implement the Western model in the Republic of Moldova it is necessary to change *the mentality of the population*, so that the institutions, the western practices are successfully assimilated into the Moldovan state. The Republic of Moldova can be consolidated and strengthened following the assimilation process of the Western model.

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