

KEEPING PACE WITH GLOBALIZATION IN „VALAHIA” UNIVERSITY OF TARGOVISTE

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Manuscript received: 01.05.2014; Accepted paper: 22.05.2014;

Published online: 30.06.2014.

Motto:

„Today, more than ever, for us, to become good Europeans, we first have to be good Romanians”
I.I.C. Brătianu, 1922

Abstract. *Globalization is a term currently used in the world today, but its precise meaning is not always clearly defined. This paper is trying to explore the type of globalization Romania is going through. It discusses its international impact on the development of higher education in „Valahia” University of Targoviste with practical examples that illustrate the main points.*

Keywords: *research, Scientometrics, Romanian professors, globalization, index of globalization.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Our present – day world is encompassed by a wide process of transition toward a new global civilization. From the very beginning we need to say that there is not yet an unanimously accepted definition for globalization because this phenomenon includes numerous complex processes going on in the different domains of social life [1]. However, it can be stated that globalization represents the reception and long-term approach to the contemporary problems which are generated by the interaction of the numerous economic, technical, political, social and cultural processes and phenomena, as well as their resolution by the international community [2].

A number of authors have creatively tried to define the phenomenon of globalization. For instance, in one of his essays, Eugen Ovidiu Chirovici gives globalization the following definition by saying that [3]: „Globalization is the most dramatic mutation that the human species has ever gone through”, while the Spanish professor, Alejandro Llano Cifuentes from Navarra University points out that „Globalization is a procedure that allows the strong to take full advantage of the weak” [4]. According to the English sociologist, Martin Albrow, professor at Wales University, “Globalization covers all those processes by which the peoples of the world are incorporated into one single society in the world, the global society” [5].

Globalization has made a significant impact over the last few years, also bringing changes to the educational systems all over the world. The rapid development of information technology demands fundamental changes of the educational system. Education relies less

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and less on the memorization of information, instead it focuses on the development of the abilities necessary for locating the required information. The training of the academic teaching staff is no longer centered on the academic teaching staff is no longer centered on the goal of encyclopedic knowledge, but on the ability to direct and guide students toward finding their own paths and methods of investigation. This paper is going to present our university's efforts to adapt to and cope with the process of globalization in higher education in Romania.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

The paper deals with examples of globalization in education in general, as well as with the implementation by „Valahia” University of Targoviste of some aspects such as [6-13]:

- growth of educational offer;
- students' flow from and towards Romania;
- inter – university exchanges of teaching staff;
- jointly written papers with another university;
- Master's theses in co-tutorship;
- scientific treaties with authors from different countries and published by recognized printing houses (Marcel Dekker, Springer a.s.o.);
- scientific activities jointly performed with Romanian professors who hold a position in various universities in the world;
- invited lectures to famous universities;
- strengthening of the English language status within the educational process;
- development of the new information technologies and e-learning;
- expansion of partnerships with the economic, social and cultural milieu.

From a managerial perspective, the indices used to assess higher education internationally are of a purely statistical nature [14] and internationalization covers curricula, the teaching language, recognition of studies, mobility of students and/or academic teaching staff as well as the educational offer [15].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An immediate effect of globalization is represented by the internationalization of education translated into the students' and professors' increasing mobility within the EU's programmes and not only. According to the UNESCO's definition “the foreign students are the students who hold a passport for a different country than the host one” while “the international students are the students who have crossed one national border for education and have enrolled outside their country of origin” [16].

Most of the foreign students studying in Romanian universities in 2008 came from the Republic of Moldova, the Ukraine and Israel [6]. In accordance with UNESCO statistical data, in the year 2009 the number of Romanian students studying abroad was over 23,000.

In Romania there are students from Bermudes, Guinea, Nepal, Oman, Zambia, but also from the U.K., France, Germany, Sweden a.s.o. [7, 8]. The main reasons for which foreigners come to study in Romania are the costs and the quality of education. The foreign students are particularly interested in medical, economic sciences and technical universities.

In 2012 the number of foreign students in Romania was estimated at about 12,000 [8].

Romanian and Bulgarian students have been forbidden to enter the U.K. [9] for a while. And yet, the job fair for doctors in Bucharest advertises jobs for Romanian specialists in the U.K. [10]. Now, there are no more interdiction when someone else has covered the costs of the education. The number of foreign students accepted at Valahia University of Targoviste was of 50 in the year 2008 [17], 64 in 2009 [18] and 148 in the year 2013 [19] (Fig. 1).

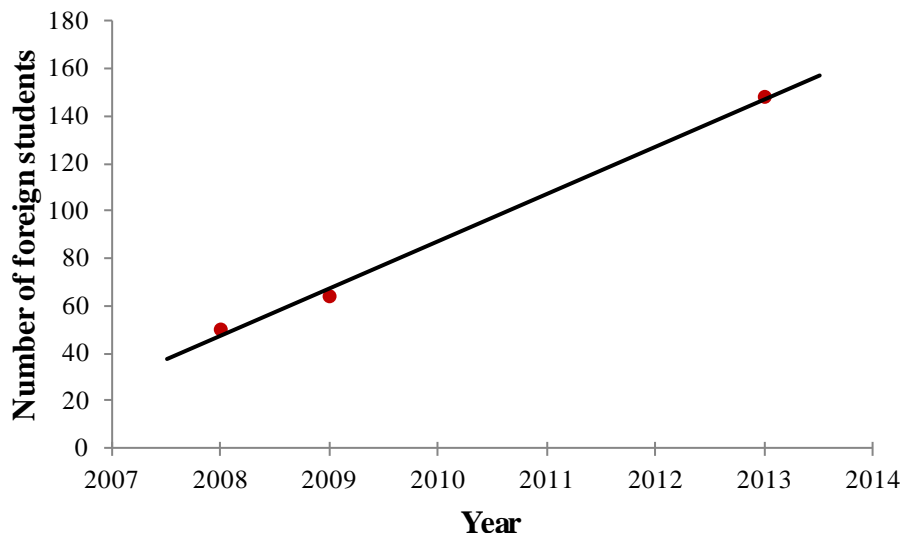


Figure 1. The evolution over time of the number of foreign students accepted at Valahia University of Targoviste [17-19].

More and more universities from abroad are interested in recruiting students from Romania. Oxford and Sorbonne can be counted among the universities that presented their offer at the Educational fair in Bucharest. Foreigners say that the young Romanians rank among the best – trained computer science specialists in the world. On the other hand, many Romanian students have scored exceptional results with universities abroad. All the foreign students enrolled in Romania are certified by CNRED in respect of their study documents and hold the acceptance letters issued by the specialized department in the ministry. The student recruitment and admission policy is transparent, the educational offer and the admission requirements being made public 6 months prior to the date of the entrance examination. International education is a way of promoting cultures and relationships between countries, but also a source of revenue for the universities that receive foreign students. In Romania, the fee paid by a foreign student is equal to the fee paid by 7 Romanian students [22]. In some countries, the fees from foreign students are enough to cover over 10% of the national budget allotted for education (e. g. Australia).

However, the lobbying for the internationalization of higher education is not made by the ministry or university either, but by each professor, Study Programme director, head of department/chair, deputy dean and dean, research centre director and vice-rector. That is why we should not be surprised at the faculties' great reluctance for developing their curricula in foreign languages [23]. In the U.S.A. this problem has found a new resolution, namely, very many notorious American universities of research such as state University of New York or University of California in San Diego, etc, have elected Asian presidents. This does not mean Americans of Asian origin but citizens born and educated in Asia. These people came to the U.S.A. were they worked as researchers in great universities and subsequently became rectors – the stake behind all this being the attraction of foreign students. At present, about twenty million students are doing their studies outside their country of origin [24].

The waves of globalization seem to be encompassing the whole Europe. Starting with 2014, the Polytechnic University of Milan will provide lectures only in English. "We strongly

believe that all our lectures must be international”, said Giovanni Azzone, the university’s rector. “There is an increasing competition between the universities in the world and, if we wish to keep up with it, we must operate this change” [25]. The current stage of higher education internationalization also includes the co-tutorship of Master’s Degree theses governed by Valahia University of Targoviste professors with other academic members from various countries (fig. 2).

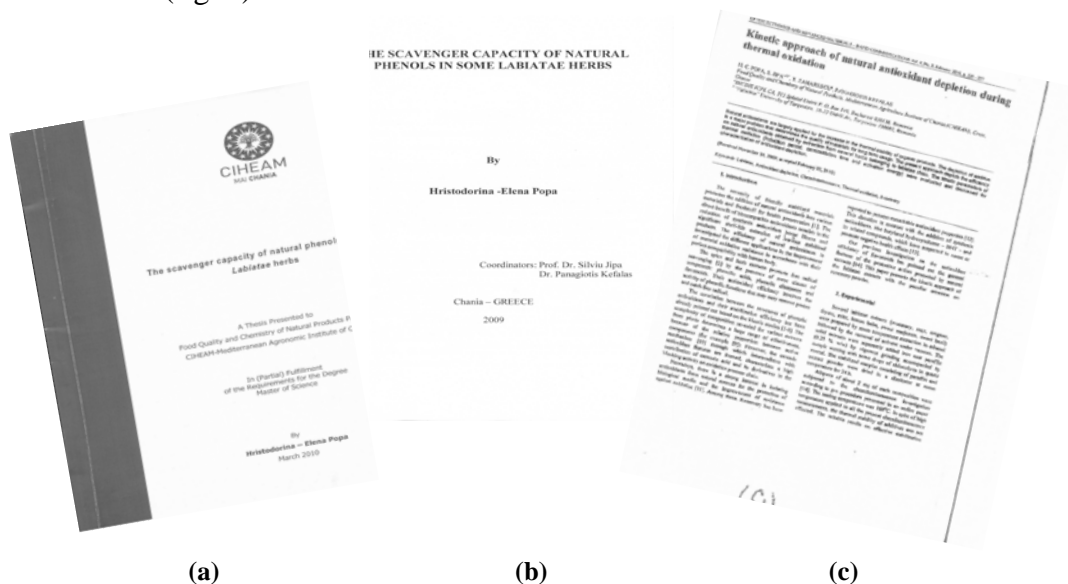


Figure 2. Master Degree Thesis written under co-tutorship of UVT (Romania) and CIHEAM – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (Greece) (a and b) and paper published in *Optoelectr. and Adv. Mater. - Rapid Communication* (c) on a topic derived from the paper.



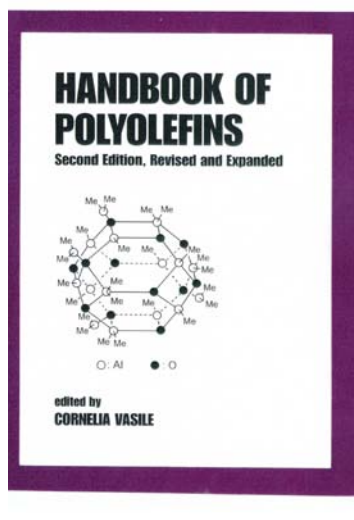
Figure 3. The research internship of some Romanian professors in the Chemiluminescence Laboratory of Gunna Kiryu University, Japan (photo) and publications that followed (facsimile).

Another feature of this stage of higher education internationalization is represented by the exchange of experience in university scientific research. The collaboration with professor

Zenjiro Osawa and his laboratory at Gunma University, Japan, who have a rich experience with the study of polymer degradation and stability, meant the strengthening of Romanian experience by two university professors from Valahia University of Targoviste. Fig. 3 presents a few scientific papers made in joint cooperation with Gunma University members in the field of chemiluminescence. Other examples of internationalized academic cooperation in writing scientific papers for prestigious journals or publishing wide studies are shown in table 1 and Fig. 4.

Table 1. Scientific papers published in academic journals with the participation of some personalities from Japan, the U.S.A., Portugal, Thailand, Singapore etc.

| Item no. | Paper title | First author | Foreign partner | Journal | Printing press | Hirsch index |
|----------|--|------------------|--|--|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | „The cooperative effect between pyrene and a radical scavenger in stabilization of LDPE as studied by chemiluminescence” | Silviu Jipa | M. Nishimoto Harumi Otsuki Z. Osawa | Polymer Degradation and Stability, 54, 99 – 105 (1996) | ELSEVIER | 65 |
| 2 | „Irradiation of Polyethylene in presence of several additives as studied by chemiluminescence” | Silviu Jipa | Z. Osawa | Journal of Macromolecular Science - Pure and Applied Chemistry A 35 (7&8) 1103 - 1115 (1998) | Marcel Dekker Inc. | 30 |
| 3 | „Effects of some secondary amines on the oxidation of ethylene – propylene elastomers”. | Traian Zaharescu | M. J. S. Brites M. A. F. Esteves M. J. Marcelo - Curto B. Gigante | Polymer Degradation and Stability, 68, 83 – 86 (2000) | ELSEVIER | 65 |
| 4 | „Kinetic effects of photoexposed isotactic polypropilene in the presence of some hindered – amine light stabilisers” | Silviu Jipa | W. Y. Wayne J. Q. Pau | Polymer 41, 6949 – 6953 (2000) | ELSEVIER | 133 |
| 5 | „Chemiluminescence of Isotactic polypropylene Induced by Photo-oxidative Degradation and Natural Weathering” | Silviu Jipa | M. Kaci Naima Touati | Journal of Applied Polymer Science 102 (5) 4623 – 4629 (2006) | Wiley Periodicals Inc. | 96 |
| 6 | „The Control of Thermal and Radiation Stability of PP containing CaCO ₃ Nanoparticles” | Traian Zaharescu | Pitt Supaphol | Macromolecular Symposia 242, 319 – 324 (2006) | Wiley Interscience | 39 |
| 7 | „Thermal stability of isotactic polypropylene modified with CaCO ₃ Nanoparticles” | Silviu Jipa | Pitt Supaphol | Polymer Bulletin 64, 783 – 790 (2010) | Springer | 40 |
| 8 | „Stabilization effects of naringenin and on γ -irradiated EPDM” | T. Zaharescu | D. Henderson | Radiation Physics and Chemistry 84, 35 – 38 (2013) | ELSEVIER | 45 |



12

Electrical Properties

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The electrical properties of polyolefins for various applications such as electrical insulation require a description of the influence of material behavior on the most electrical properties such as their charges induced by static electric factors.

The electrical properties of polyolefins, being sensitive to their structure, gather their research into a large class of organic materials that exhibit considerable electrical properties, as their linear polyolefins have to present certain flow between molecules in different periods. Detailed reports on electrical properties have been presented by various authors, each of them reaching on particular aspects of this topic [1-4].

One of the most important questions for long-time studies is the relative positions that involve the evaluation of the charges involved during the application of stresses [5-12].

A particular interest in the space charge distribution can be explained by the consequences of charge accumulation in polymers on their dielectric [13-17], triboelectric charge distributions caused by various local factors with load or time development [18-20] or a fault failure during degradation [21-23].

Difficulties in the mathematical mathematical explanation of the space charges of materials in the applied stress, it is intended to offer suggested concepts of a general interest for electrical engineering.

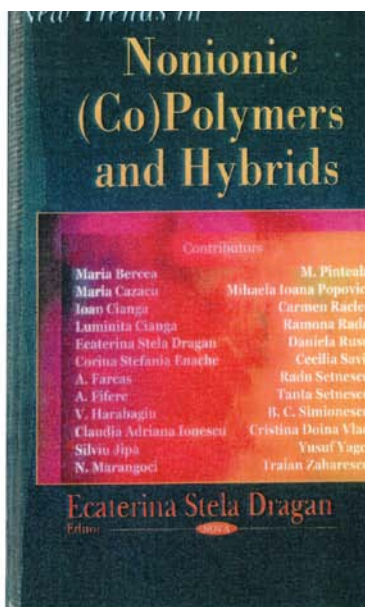
The selected electrical properties presented in this chapter can be successfully divided into two basic characteristics that influence the observed behavior of polyolefins:

1. Polymer properties: dielectric constant and dielectric loss factor. Their charge density distribution is without macroscopic dielectric (Fig. 1-4).
2. Electrical properties resulted by the application of an outer electrical field: voltage-current dependence, changes in voltage or current values over certain time, electrical conductivity, electrical breakdown (Fig. 1-5-10).

Because of the low conductivity of polyolefins, especially in dry conditions, measuring its electrical properties has been highly studied [24-25]. Some representative results obtained during electrical and electrochemical aging of various polyolefins are presented (Fig. 11-42), taking into account that the appearance duration is strongly dependent on the chemical strength of material.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| ϵ | dielectric constant |
| ϵ' | real part of dielectric constant |
| ϵ'' | imaginary part of dielectric constant |
| σ | conductivity |
| ρ | charge density |
| ρ_{sp} | space charge density |
| ρ_{ind} | induced charge density |
| ρ_{ext} | external charge density |
| ρ_{tot} | total charge density |
| ρ_{vol} | volume charge density |
| ρ_{surf} | surface charge density |
| $\rho_{ind,vol}$ | induced volume charge density |
| $\rho_{ind,surf}$ | induced surface charge density |
| $\rho_{ext,vol}$ | external volume charge density |
| $\rho_{ext,surf}$ | external surface charge density |
| $\rho_{tot,vol}$ | total volume charge density |
| $\rho_{tot,surf}$ | total surface charge density |
| $\rho_{tot,vol,surf}$ | total volume and surface charge density |



Chapter 7

OXIDATION AND AGEING OF NANOCOMPOSITES HYBRIDS

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ABSTRACT

Oxidation behavior of various copolymers and hybrid materials is discussed on basis of recent references in the field. Structural and functional changes induced oxidation aging are discussed in some significant cases. The influence of their structure, additives or impurities are also discussed as possible factors influencing photo-oxidation susceptibility of nanocomposite materials. The study revealed that oxidation and aging of nanocomposites and hybrids is tentatively explained, in spite the interest regarding long term exploitation of these materials.

ABBREVIATION LIST

- EPDM: ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber
- EPDM-g-MA: EPDM grafted with maleic anhydride
- DMBT: dimethyl dehydrogenated talow ammonium
- DTG: differential thermogravimetry
- BALS: Hindered Amine Light Stabilizer
- MA: maleic anhydride
- MMT: montmorillonite
- MTDGM: methyl talow di-xy-dioxyethyl ammonium
- PMMA: poly(methyl methacrylate)
- PMMA-GMA: poly(methyl methacrylate-co-glycidyl methacrylate)

Landolt-Börnstein
Numerical Data and Functional Relationships in Science and Technology
New Series

Group VIII: Condensed Matter
Volume 6

Polymers

Subvolume A
Structure of Polymers

Part 1
Definitions and Physical Properties

Editors:
K.-F. Arnold, M.D. Lechner

Authors:
K.-F. Arnold, S. Jipa, F. Kahl, G. Steiner, T. Zaharescu, C. Zimmer



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Vol. 6: 1975
Radiochemical Modifications in Polymers

C. Zaharescu, N. Groll

1. Basic processes in radiation chemistry of polymers

The radiation chemistry of polymers is a branch of chemistry that deals with the chemical changes induced in polymers by ionizing radiation. This field has become increasingly important in the last few decades due to the widespread use of polymers in various applications, particularly in the field of nuclear energy and space technology. The study of radiation-induced reactions in polymers is essential for understanding the degradation mechanisms of polymeric materials under irradiation conditions.

The present chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the basic processes in the radiation chemistry of polymers. It covers the fundamental aspects of radiation-induced reactions, including the formation of free radicals, the role of molecular oxygen, and the influence of various factors such as temperature, dose rate, and polymer structure on the reaction pathways. The chapter also discusses the analytical methods used to study radiation-induced changes in polymers, such as electron spin resonance (ESR) and infrared spectroscopy.

The authors, Rada Senescu, Silviu Jipa, and Traian Zaharescu, bring extensive expertise in the field of radiation chemistry and polymer science to this work. Their research has focused on understanding the mechanisms of radiation-induced degradation in various polymeric materials, with a particular emphasis on the role of nanocomposites and hybrids. The chapter is intended for researchers and students in the fields of chemistry, physics, and materials science.

III. Application of Chemiluminescence in Polymer Research

C. Zaharescu, N. Groll

1. Chemiluminescence on Polymers

Chemiluminescence is a phenomenon where light is emitted as a result of a chemical reaction. In the context of polymer research, chemiluminescence is used as a sensitive and selective analytical tool to study various chemical processes, such as the degradation of polymers, the detection of free radicals, and the monitoring of catalytic reactions. The chapter discusses the principles of chemiluminescence and its application in the study of polymers, highlighting the advantages of this technique over other analytical methods.

Figure 4. Chapters from books with co-authors from Romania (Valahia University of Targoviste) and other countries, published by recognized publishing houses such as Marcel Dekker Inc. Nova Science Publishers, Inc., Springer.

ROMANIAN PROFESSORS IN EUROPEAN UNION UNIVERSITIES

The EU member states, but also the ones overseas, have made job offers for university teaching staff of Romanian origin. In the academic year 2012 ÷ 2013 the course on „Romanian language, culture and civilization” is delivered at universities from Italy, Spain, Netherlands and Belgium. In the year 2013 ÷ 2014 this course is going to be held at ELTE University in Budapest (semester I) and „Johannes Gutenberg” University in Mainz (semester II). The same offer also comes from universities in the Czech Republic (the Caroline University of Prague), Poland („Adam Mickiewicz” University in Poznan) and Kazakhstan (the University in Karaganda) [28].

Professor Preda Mihailescu has been teaching Mathematics at „Georg August” University in Göttingen since 2005. His name is connected with the discovery of Catalan’s conjecture (2002), the result of which is known as „Mihailescu’s theorem” [29].



Figure 5. Professor Preda Mihailescu (born in 1955) in his position at “Georg August” University in Göttingen [29].

Dan Munteanu Colan, university professor, head of Romance Philology Department in „Las Palmas” University of Gran Canaria (Canary Islands) has been teaching in the Spanish higher education for over 30 years [30].



Figure 6. Professor Dr. Dan Munteanu Colan (born in 1944) in his position at “Las Palmas” University of Gran Canaria [30].

Josephine Kohlenberg, university professor, Doctor Engineer at „Telecom Sud Paris” Engineering School, has been developing the activity of students’ projects and she guides the students towards internship programmes [31].



Figure 7. Professor Dr. Eng. Josephine Kohlenberg, „Telecom Sud Paris” Engineering School [32].

ROMANIAN PROFESSORS AT NORTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

We are going to present contemporary Romanians, university teaching members, who have obtained outstanding results in their activity. Academician professor dr. eng. Alexandru T. Balaban, one the most recognized Romanian scientists ever, at the age of 82, is still performing a remarkable activity on chemical graphic and isotopic marking besides his teaching in „Texas A & M” University, U.S.A. [33].



Figure 8. Acad. Prof. Dr. Eng. A.T. Balaban in his position at “Texas A&M” University [33].

The field of Mathematics is brilliantly represented by university Professor Dr Ciprian Foias (80 years old) (Fig. 9) teaching at Indian University [34] and Texas A & M University [35]. The first Romanian female mathematician, university Professor Doctor at Stanford University is named Eleny Ionel (Fig. 10). More than that, she was awarded the title of “professor” at both Stanford and Wisconsin University, a thing which is “out of the common”. [36].

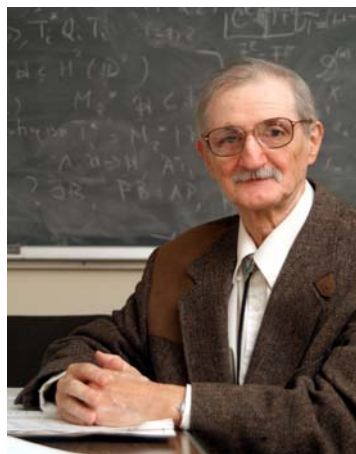


Figure 9. Prof. Dr. Ciprian Foias in his position at Indiana University and “Texas A&M” University [35].



Figure 10. Professor Dr. Eleny Ionel from Stanford University [37].

Another member of the strong U.S.A. mathematicians academic community is Dan Virgil Voiculescu (born in 1949), who has made contributions to the probability theory. He is a university professor at Berkeley University of California [38].



Figure 11. Professor Dr. Dan Virgil Voiculescu in his active position at Berkeley University of California.

Mathematician Daniel Tătaru (born in 1967) is also Professor Dr. at Berkeley University of California [39]. Ciprian Manolescu (born in 1978) is an ex Olympic Romanian who competed in three International Mathematics Olympiads (1995, 1996, and 1997). At present he is a mathematician and Doctor in Mathematics.



Figure 12. Professor Dr. Daniel Tătaru in his active position at Berkely University of California.



Figure 13. Dr. Ciprian Manolescu, associate professor at Los Angeles University in California.

The list could include other illustrious personalities such as George Lusztig, mathematician, professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology [41], Adrian Bejan, university professor of Mechanical Engineering at Duke University [42], Radu Florescu, historian, professor at Boston College [43], Eugene Borza, historian, university professor at Pennsylvania State University [44] and so on. We should emphasize the fact that over 300 Romanian professors of Mathematics teach at universities in the U.S.A., France, New Zealand, the U.K., Germany, Italy [51].

Also, from Canada we would like to mention Professor Dr. Andrei Vania from the Department of Pharmaceutical Industry Technology at „Gèrald-Godin” College in Montreal [45] as well as Professor Eugene Roventa at York University, Toronto [46]. In the province of Quebec there are 116 university professors among which we find Nicolae Mateescu – Matte (honorary member of the Romanian Academy) [47].

Another important from of education internationalization is represented by the invited lectures. A prominent activity in this area is done by the invited lectures. A prominent activity in this area is done by Professor Doctor Maria Negro Ponti – Delivani, rector of the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki [48]. She was invited to deliver lectures by the universities of Paris, Rome, Bonn, Trieste, Marseilles, Florence, Warsaw, Bratislava, Sofia, Targoviste and others.

Also, the participation of Professor Dr. Cristinel Mortici from Valahia University of Targoviste in the 2011 to the 3rd International Conference on Mathematical Analysis in China had a remarkable impact on the scientific community.



Figure 14. Professor Dr. Cristinel Mortici, representing Valahia University of Targoviste at the 3rd International Conference on Mathematical Analysis and Applications, China, 8-12 August 2011.

In order to assess a country's degree of globalization they use an indicator called the *index of globalization* [52]. This is meant to measure the level of a state's economic

development from the perspective of the flow of commercial activities, technological level, level of the country's political involvement and integration in various international bodies and organizations, etc.

Romania keeps her position in the middle ranking among the countries that are most open to globalization. It ranks 31 amongst the most important 62 countries which produce 96% of the world's GDP and include 84% of the world's population. The index of globalization has been made public by Ernst & Young [53]. And yet, one of the European Commission's reports points out that Romania is exposed to some negative effects of globalization such as difficulty in attracting investments as well as in creating and maintaining jobs and employment opportunities [54].

Apart from what we have shown so far, globalization can bring *benefits* such as:

- Free circulation of people, goods, services, capital and information;
- Information and communication technologies (e-mail, the Internet, video – conferences) have created the alternative of e-learning;
- Distance learning is becoming more and more popular with the students who study and work in a profession at the same time;

However, globalization can also cause *disadvantages*. For instance [26]:

- Reduction of national sovereignty prerogatives (toward EU);
- Transfer of wealth from developing countries like Romania to countries with a developed economy;
- Loss of cultural identity (Anglo – American influences on the language, the import of some cultural traditions such as Valentine's Day, Halloween and so on);
- Loss of ethnical identity by genetic mixing with other populations, etc;
- National uprooting, property dispossession and remoteness from the native country.

Globalization is a phenomenon closely and consistently monitored by transnational companies, the mass-media and the intelligence services of the big powers.

In Romania the costs of globalization seem to be higher in comparison with the prospective benefits. To conclude, let us quote another definition: "Globalization describes a many – caused process, which is the result of the events taking place in one part of the globe, but that have large effects on the societies and problems in the other parts of the globe" (HotNews.ro, 11 October 2010).

4. INSTEAD OF CONCLUSIONS

"An objective analysis of the process of globalization reveals the fact that the economic advantages will mainly go toward developed countries and big economic powers. To this effect, the world's financial mechanism geared by its institutions and bodies, the IMF, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization that are controlled by the big economic powers, favour, to an overwhelming extent, the developed countries...

In conclusion, globalization is an irreversible fact, and any country, that plans its future thoroughly, has to deal with it.

To us, in Romania, this means that we are going to lose control over our own country, work for others all our life, be in debt all the time, everything with the feeling that we will better of" [49].

Acknowledgements. The work of Calin Oros was supported by a grant of the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research, CNCS-UEFISCDI project number PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-0087.

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