



"DIMITRIE CANTEMIR"  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
BUCHAREST



THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY



THE INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



THE INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY  
OF LIFE RESEARCH



ROMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS



## PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE THE EUROPEAN CULTURE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THE RIGHT TO HAPPINESS

3<sup>rd</sup> edition



13-15 December 2012  
Bucharest, Romania



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### THE EUROPEAN CULTURE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THE RIGHT TO HAPPINESS

3<sup>rd</sup> edition

**"THE CONSTITUTION ONLY GIVES PEOPLE  
THE RIGHT TO PURSUE  
HAPPINESS. YOU HAVE TO  
CATCH IT YOURSELF."**

*Benjamin Franklin*

**13-15 DECEMBER 2012  
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

Ph.D. Professor **Maryia VIARENICH** – Institute of  
Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

Professor **Filomena MAGGINO** – President of  
ISQOLS (International Society for Quality Of Life  
Studies), University of Firenze, Italy

**Bruce ADAMSON** – Legal Officer – Scottish Human  
Rights Commission, Judge – Edinburgh Children's  
Panel

Ph.D. Professor **Jukka KANGASLAHTI** – University  
of Turku, Finland

**Victor MOCANU** – President of the Association of  
Sociologists and Demographers of the Republic of  
Moldavia

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13-15 DECEMBER 2012

#### THIRD EDITION

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**Ph.D. Professor Cristian Ionescu**

**Ph.D. Professor Irina Zlătescu**

**Ph.D. Professor Elena Zamfir**

**Ph.D. Lecturer Daniela Ciochină**

**Ph.D. Lecturer Agata Mihaela Popescu**

**Ph.D. Student Assistant Ramona Paraschiv**

**Assistant researcher Viorica Rotaru**

**I.T. Support: Engineer Adrian Sava**

## **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

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### **Section I (Room 39)**

#### **Conceptual considerations on the right to happiness. An interdisciplinary approach**

Ph.D. Senior Lecturer Gabriela Pohoată  
Ph.D. Senior Lecturer Gheorghe Ciascai

### **Section II (Room 130)**

#### **The role and functions of law in the formation of social behaviour patterns**

Ph.D. Professor Cristian Ionescu  
Ph.D. Professor Irina Zlătescu  
Ph.D. Lecturer Daniela Ciochină

### **Section III (Carol I Amphitheater)**

#### **Economic development and social welfare**

Ph.D. Professor Manoela Popescu  
Ph.D. Professor Constanța Chițiba

### **Section IV (Senate Hall)**

#### **The Relationship between quality of life and happiness**

Ph.D. Professor Elena Zamfir  
Ph.D. Professor Ion Mărginean

I.T. Support -Engineer Adrian Sava



## PAPERS ATTENDANCE TO PLENARY

1. Professor **FILOMENA MAGGINO** President of ISQLS (International Society for Quality of Life Studies), University of Firenze, Italy

### *The good society: defining and measuring wellbeing and the role of happiness*

**Abstract:** Recently, the debate on new measures of wellbeing reached a wide audience especially thanks to the big media's "ballyhoo".

That debate, very often accompanied by Robert Kennedy's word (March 18, 1968, speech at Kansas University) has been urged also thanks to many prestigious initiatives, like the commission appointed by French President in 2008 and now known through the chairs' names (Stiglitz, Sen e Fitoussi) [<http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr/en/index.htm>].

What is never said is that since many years, many researchers all over the world are continuously working on defining concepts and measures of wellbeing. Looking at this movement's outputs allows us to realize that what is

reasserted by the last initiatives can be considered, in many respects, neither really original nor avant-garde (Maggino & Ruviglioni, 2010).

In many cases, the debate has been trivialized to the simple concern "what indicator can replace GDP?" "Can we replace GDP with happiness?" "How the indicators should be handled?"

Actually defining what a good society is, and consequently its observation and monitoring, should take into account two important and interrelated concepts: complexity and limit.

2. Academician **RĂZVAN THEODORESCU**

### *Reserved Title*

3. **BRUCE ADAMSON** – Legal Officer – Scottish Human Rights Commission, Judge – Edinburgh Children's Panel

### *Scotland and the right to happiness: children's hearings and action plans*

**Abstract:** Scotland's unique approach to youth justice and the care and protection of children has since for 40 years sought to promote the dignity and welfare of children.