

## **Credit market development in Romania from the early 19th century to the present. External influences on the credit market and legal aspects of lending in Romania**

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This paper examines important aspects in the evolution of the credit market in Romania starting from the 19th century until 2014. Along with the economic aspects, in the paper, there are also presented legal aspects, of the legislation governing the lending activity and similarly demographic aspects necessary for understanding the whole context.

As historical periods, there are included in the analysis the early 19th century until the Union of the Principalities of 1859, from 1859 until the gaining of independence by Romania in 1877, followed by the period until the Great Union of 1918, the interwar period and the Second World War, the communist regime period from 1945 to 1989 and the post-communist period from 1989 to 2007, and the period after the EU accession in 2007 to the present.

Until 1918, there are presented the specific traits of the credit market in the Romanian historical provinces – the Romanian Principalities, Transylvania, Bukovina with the influences of the Austro-Hungarian, the Ottoman and Tsarist Empires presence and the influences of some important national minorities such as German, Hungarian and Jewish.

In the interwar period until the end of the 2nd World War, there are presented the specific traits of the credit market under the external influences coming mainly from Germany, France and England, and during the communist period, from the Soviet Union.

There are also presented the defining aspects of lending in the communist period, compared with the progressive changes and the harmonization with the European legislation, between 1989-2007. A special attention is given to the pre- and post-ascension to the European Union since 2004 and to date, which refers to the three periods of the Credit Bureau evolution, the first joint stock company, providing credit ratings in Romania.

For a more accurate understanding of the complexity and the volume of services provided, these will be presented in comparison with the Schufa rating agency, representing the elite of the credit market in Germany.

We conclude that in Romania, the credit market has evolved modestly and difficultly compared with other European countries, but there are present all the conditions for a harmonious development as a member of the European Union.