

THE EUROPEAN SCOREBOARD AND THE MACROECONOMIC SITUATION OF ROMANIA

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Abstract:

Following the financial crisis of 2008 and the government debt crisis at the level of the European Union, it was decided to introduce the procedure of macroeconomic imbalances, formalized in the form of the scoreboard, which aims to identify and correct imbalances that appear in the European Union countries that have the potential to extends to other EU countries, or even the entire European Union. The paper aims to analyze how the macroeconomic indicators monitored by the scoreboard have evolved for Romania in comparison with other countries of the European Union, before and after the outbreak of the crisis generated by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Keywords: macroeconomic imbalances; scoreboard

JEL Classification: H62, E62, E66

Methodology and Data

In order to come to conduct research on the problem of public debt, the paper analyzes data using comparative, descriptive method and the use of a set of information sources, collecting financial data in databases, based on annual reports, consolidated statistical data and the scoreboard provided by the Eurostat. The study was completed by formulating conclusions related to this phenomenon.

Description of the Problem

In 2020 the pandemic hit the economies of all countries profoundly affected economic sectors negatively in particular tourism and air transport but also in a positive sense (production of IT components and online trade), public spending grew rapidly and focused on the field health to combat the pandemic, social protection, but also to support the economy and get out of the crisis. In order to avoid the major turbulences generated by the pandemic crisis, the data before its onset were used. As a result of the economic crisis of 2008 that marked the European economies, which had divergent developments, it was necessary to use at the level of the European Union some instruments to anticipate and prevent possible slippages of the member countries' economies. Thus, in 2011, the economic imbalance procedure appeared which comparatively analyzes the characteristics of the member states and signals the emergence of imbalances and the existing vulnerabilities of some economies at the macro level. This procedure was implemented to complement and strengthen the monitoring and management

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of European economic policies, which until then focused on compliance with the Stability and Growth Pact, whose criteria are primarily of a budgetary nature.

It should be remembered that until the time of their appearance, different scoreboards were already used at the level of the European Union for specific areas such as the Industrial Performance Scoreboard, the Consumer Markets Scoreboard used to show which markets are malfunctioning or the Innovation Scoreboard used to compare the relative innovation performance of EU Member States.

In 2011, a package of legislative measures was introduced, which also includes the mechanism for supervising problems at the macroeconomic level.

The "MIP" procedure (macroeconomic imbalance procedure) consists in the monitoring by the European Commission of a scoreboard that initially had 10 macroeconomic indicators accompanied by maximum or minimum alert thresholds where required. In the first phase, the Commission's report identifies countries showing signs of imbalance in order to carry out an in-depth assessment of them, which should ultimately allow determining whether an imbalance exists and whether it is excessive. In a second phase called "prescriptive", the Commission proposes to the Council either to end the procedure if the results are satisfactory, or to adopt a recommendation regarding the Member State concerned, which can be "preventive" for small imbalances or "corrective" for excessive imbalances.

The initial analysis of macroeconomic imbalances is mandated in the report of the Alert Mechanism, it is drawn up annually, it is based on the scoreboard, and it identifies the countries whose developments require an in-depth analysis to determine if there are imbalances.

Apart from the preventive side, the MIP also has a corrective side, transposed in the Excessive Imbalance Procedure. The analysis starts from indicators whose values exceed the limit thresholds signaling the appearance of imbalances and is deepened depending on the context and the specifics of the analyzed country. The European Commission adopts preventive recommendations to the member states, from the early stage of imbalances, before they develop. States subject to the macroeconomic imbalance procedure must present a corrective action plan with exact objectives and deadlines. The achievement of these objectives is reported periodically, and the failure of the assumed objectives can bring certain sanctions that can reach fines whose amount can reach the value of 0.1 of the GDP of the sanctioned country.

Over time, four more were added to the initial 10 indicators, and for in-depth analyzes there is a series of auxiliary indicators.

The headline indicators consist of the following indicators and indicative thresholds:

1. 3-year backward moving average of the current account balance as percent of GDP, with thresholds of +6% and -4%
2. Net international investment position as percent of GDP, with a threshold of -35%
3. 5-year percentage change of export market shares measured in values, with a threshold of -6%
4. 3-year percentage change in nominal unit labor cost, with thresholds of +9% for euro area countries and +12% for non-euro area countries
5. 3-year percentage change of the real effective exchange rates based on HICP/CPI deflators, relative to 41 other industrial countries, with thresholds of -/+5% for euro area countries and -/+11% for non-euro area countries
6. Private sector debt (consolidated) in % of GDP with a threshold of 133%

7. Private sector credit flow in % of GDP with a threshold of 14%
8. Year-on-year changes in house prices relative to a Eurostat consumption deflator, with a threshold of 6%
9. General government sector debt in % of GDP with a threshold of 60%
10. 3-year backward moving average of unemployment rate, with a threshold of 10%
11. year-on-year changes in total financial sector liabilities, with a threshold of 16.5%
12. 3-year change in p.p. of the activity rate, with a threshold of -0.2%
13. 3-year change in p.p. of the long-term unemployment rate, with a threshold of +0.5%
14. 3-year change in p.p. of the youth unemployment rate, with a threshold of +2%

Results

MIP 2020

At the EU level, the last MIP at the European level published is the one from 2020, given the fact that for 2021 (as we will see) a series of data are provisional or missing.

The problems that appear most often, easily revealed by the scoreboard, are the variation in the unit labor cost that exceeds the maximum threshold in 18 countries, the increased government debt that affects 13 countries and the debt of the private sector shows that 12 countries are in the imbalance zone. It can be seen that there are other criteria that a large number of countries fail to meet: current account balance, net international investment 10 countries and house price index 10 countries.

On the other hand, there are also certain indicators that signal the presence of the respective imbalance in a small number of countries, namely: long term unemployment rate, unemployment rate, private sector credit flow. We will explain in point 2 what the indicators mean and what happens when they exceed the limit threshold.

In 2020, Romania fulfilled 11 of the 14 indicators, thus positioning itself in the first 9 countries along with Poland and Austria. The countries that ranked best in terms of the number of fulfilled criteria were the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, both fulfilling 13 of the 14 criteria. Spain, Portugal and Greece (from the well-known group of countries with PIIGS problems) met the lowest number of criteria 8, 9 and 9 respectively. It is interesting to point out that developed countries such as the Netherlands or Germany meet fewer criteria than Romania with only 10 criteria corresponding to.

The criteria that Romania fails to fulfill are: current account balance, net international investment position, and unit labor cost, all these three indicators being part of the external imbalance and competitiveness category, in the other two categories (internal imbalances and employment indicators) Romania manages to fall into areas that do not indicate the possible emergence of imbalances.

Table 1.1.

MIP Scoreboard 2020

Year2020	External imbalances and competitiveness				
	Current account balance - % of GDP (3 year average)	Net international investment position (% of GDP)	Real effective exchange rate - 42 trading partners, HICP deflator (3 year % change)	Export market share - % of world exports (5 year % change)	Nominal unit labour cost index (2010=100) (3 year % change)
Thresholds	-4%/+6%	-35%	±5% (EA) ±11% (Non-EA)	-6%	9% (EA) 12% (Non-EA)
BE	0.1	44.4	2.5	10.9	7.5p
BG	0.8	-26.3	7.1	16.0	20.4
CZ	1.5	-12.5	5.6	10.1	19.2
DK	8.1	68.8	0.9	11.5	6.2
DE	7.4	61.7	2.4	1.3	11.1p
EE	1.0	-21.5	5.3	17.6	17.1
IE	-5.8	-174.0	-1.2	50.0	-6.3
EL	-3.7	-175.0	0.4	-10.1	6.4p
ES	1.6	-85.5	1.1	-6.8	11.0p
FR	-1.0	-30.2	2.7	-6.9	4.6p
HR	1.6	-47.8	0.5	0.1	13.7p
IT	3.2	2.4	0.6	-2.8	5.5
CY	-6.6	-136.7	0.1	28.5	5.8p
LV	0.7	-34.7	5.9	18.2	18.4
LT	3.7	-15.8	6.9	39.3	18.3
LU	4.5	39.9	1.5	20.6	11.1
HU	-0.7	-48.1	-4.9	8.2	13.2p
MT	3.0	60.3	2.1	13.2	19.7
NL	9.1	113.9	3.8	7.4	14.0p
AT	1.6	9.3	3.2	5.2	12.2
PL	0.7	-44.5	1.1	36.9	12.3p
PT	0.0	-106.4	0.0	-0.9	16.2p
RO	-4.9	-48.3	3.4	20.6	26.1p
SI	6.4	-15.2	1.9	20.2	14.9
SK	-1.8	-65.7	5.3	8.1	16.4
FI	-0.4	-5.3	2.3	12.3	6.1
SE	4.6	16.4	-4.8	4.5	9.4

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

Table 1.2.

MIP Scoreboard 2020

Year2020	Internal imbalances					
	House price index (2015=100), deflated (1 year % change)	Private sector credit flow, consolidated (% of GDP)	Private sector debt, consolidated (% of GDP)	General government gross debt (% of GDP)	Unemployment rate (3 year average)	Total financial sector liabilities, non-consolidated (1 year % change)
Thresholds	6%	14%	133%	60%	10%	16.5%
BE	3.6	1.1p	192.0p	112.8	5.7	8.8
BG	5.2p	4.2	94.3	24.7	4.8	11.1
CZ	5.5	2.4	81.9	37.7	2.3	3.4
DK	4.6	4.8	220.9	42.1	5.2	5.7
DE	7.1	6.0p	120.1p	68.7	3.4bp	11.3
EE	6.9	3.6	104.4	19.0	5.5	17.5
IE	-0.2	-1.8	188.9	58.4	5.5	7.2
EL	5.5e	5.4p	125.3p	206.3	17.6	27.4
ES	2.2	4.4p	146.4p	120.0	15.0	9.5
FR	4.4	13.0p	173.7p	115.0	8.5	11.6p
HR	7.3	1.3p	98.0p	87.3	7.5	7.3
IT	2.2	4.1	118.9	155.6	9.9	6.8
CY	0.7p	-2.6p	260.5p	115.3	7.7	-2.5
LV	2.7	-1.8	66.5	43.2	7.3	10.8
LT	6.4	0.3	54.7	46.6	7.0	28.5
LU	13.8	44.5	316.8	24.8	6.0	-3.6
HU	1.9p	7.7p	76.4p	80.1	3.8	55.3
MT	2.2p	9.0	139.1	53.4	3.9	1.9
NL	6.0p	-1.3p	233.7p	54.3	3.7	3.3p
AT	6.2	4.7	131.2	83.2	4.9	10.6
PL	7.1p	1.5	75.9	57.4	3.5	11.7
PT	7.7	4.4p	163.7p	135.2	6.8	7.2
RO	2.3	1.3p	48.5p	47.4	4.4	13.4
SI	5.2	-0.9	69.7	79.8	4.9	14.0
SK	7.2	3.7	95.3	59.7	6.3	9.9
FI	1.3	6.5	155.2	69.5	7.3	7.7
SE	3.0	11.6	215.7	39.7	7.2b	11.2

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

Table 1.3.

MIP Scoreboard 2020

Year2020	Employment indicators ¹		
	Activity rate - % of total population aged 15-64 (3 year change in pp)	Long-term unemployment rate - % of active population aged 15-74 (3 year change in pp)	Youth unemployment rate - % of active population aged 15-24 (3 year change in pp)
Thresholds	-0.2 pp	0.5 pp	2 pp
BE	0.6b	-1.2	-4.0
BG	0.9	-1.1	1.3
CZ	0.5	-0.4	0.1
DK	1.1b	-0.3	-0.8
DE	1.1bp	-0.5bp	0.6bp
EE	0.5	-0.7	5.8
IE	-0.8	-1.7	0.9
EL	-0.9	-4.7	-8.6
ES	-1.7	-2.7	-0.3
FR	-0.5	-1.3	-1.9
HR	0.7	-2.5	-6.3
IT	-1.3	-1.8	-5.3
CY	1.9	-2.4	-6.5
LV	1.2	-1.1	-2.1
LT	2.6	-0.2	6.3
LU	2.0	-0.4	7.8
HU	1.6	-0.6	2.1
MT	4.9	-0.9	0.3
NL	1.2	-1.0	0.2
AT	0.2	-0.5	0.7
PL	1.4	-0.9	-4.0
PT	-0.4	-2.2	-1.3
RO	1.9	-0.5	-1.0
SI	0.4	-1.2	3.0
SK	0.3	-1.9	0.4
FI	1.6	-0.9	1.3
SE	0.0	-0.1	6.0

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

The comparative analysis of the 14 indicators of the scoreboard of the European Union countries for the last 5 years

1) Current account balance - % of GDP (3 year average)

Current account balance. Retroactive 3-year moving average of the current account balance as a percentage of GDP, with indicative thresholds of +6% and -4%. An economy with a high current account deficit borrows and imports more than its exports, this if it persists can lead to the accumulation of very large debts that can become unsustainable - this is the case of the 2012 debt crisis of the countries in the PIIGS group. There is also a maximum threshold, exceeding which proves that the internal demand is diminished.

In the case of Romania, it is noteworthy that in the last three years it has deposited a deficit of -4%, which is mainly due to the domestic consumption being higher than the domestic production, to the fact that the state borrows to pay pensions and salaries.

A similar evolution is observed in the case of Cyprus.

At the other extreme we have the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany with very large current account surpluses throughout the analyzed period, increasing incomes and encouraging consumption could cause the demand for goods to increase and the current account surplus to fall below the 6% threshold.

Table 2.

Current account balance - % of GDP (3 year average)					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
Bulgaria	2.1	2.4	2.0	0.9	0.5
Czechia	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.5
Denmark	8.0	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.4
Germany	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.5	7.4
Estonia	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.0	0.2
Ireland	0.2	0.5	-4.7	-5.8	-2.9
Greece	-1.5	-2.2	-2.1	-3.7	-4.7
Spain	2.7	2.6	2.3	1.6	1.3
France	-0.5	-0.7	-0.4	-0.7	-0.3
Croatia	3.0	2.5	2.8	1.6	2.0
Italy	2.2	2.6	2.8	3.2	3.2
Cyprus	-3.2	-4.4	-4.9	-6.6	-7.7
Latvia	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.7	-0.2
Lithuania	-1.0	-0.1	1.4	3.7	4.1
Luxembourg	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5
Hungary	2.9	2.2	0.5	-0.5	-1.5
Malta	2.7	3.9	5.7	2.8	-0.9
Netherlands	8.4	9.9	10.2	9.0	8.4
Austria	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.2
Poland	-0.7	-0.8	-0.4	0.7	0.9
Portugal	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.0	-0.6
Romania	-1.8	-3.1	-4.2	-4.8	-5.6
Slovenia	4.9	5.6	6.1	6.4	5.6
Slovakia	-2.2	-2.3	-2.5	-1.7	-1.7
Finland	-1.2	-1.5	-1.0	-0.5	0.4
Sweden	2.9	2.7	3.7	4.7	5.6

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

2) Net international investment position (% of GDP)

PIIN, as the net financial position (assets minus liabilities) of the domestic sectors of the economy vis-à-vis the rest of the world, is the stock equivalent of the current account balance. Less developed countries or countries with current account deficits with large external debts register a negative net investment position above the indicative threshold of - 35%.

We have four categories of countries: countries with a surplus of PIIN (Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg), etc., countries with negative PIIN but below the indicative threshold (Estonia, Czech Republic, France), countries with PIIN slightly above the indicative threshold (Romania, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Latvia, Slovakia), and countries with extremely high negative PIINs (Portugal, Spain, Ireland, Greece)

Table 3.

Net international investment position (% of GDP)					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	56.0	34.3	41.1	44.5	57.1
Bulgaria	-43.0	-37.0	-30.2	-27.1	-19.8
Czechia	-24.9	-24.4	-19.8	-16.3	-15.6
Denmark	55.4	64.0	77.7	69.0	75.4
Germany	44.2	54.8	60.3	63.4	68.3
Estonia	-33.0	-30.0	-22.8	-21.5	-13.3
Ireland	-167.3	-183.6	-193.5	-174.0	-138.9
Greece	-143.4	-148.6	-154.2	-175.0	-175.2
Spain	-85.5	-80.1	-75.0	-84.9	-70.4
France	-20.1	-19.3	-24.6	-30.7	-32.1
Croatia	-64.2	-55.7	-46.7	-47.8	-33.9
Italy	-7.4	-5.0	-1.1	2.0	7.4
Cyprus	-136.1	-125.6	-116.1	-136.2	-122.8
Latvia	-51.4	-45.2	-40.1	-34.7	-28.1
Lithuania	-36.5	-30.5	-24.0	-15.8	-7.2
Luxembourg	80.6	33.0	58.2	53.4	52.8
Hungary	-54.4	-50.7	-49.1	-48.9	-45.3
Malta	56.6	55.5	53.5	51.0	52.9
Netherlands	61.1	72.8	89.9	113.0	93.0
Austria	4.3	6.0	13.5	9.3	14.8
Poland	-61.2	-55.9	-49.8	-44.3	-39.9
Portugal	-110.4	-106.4	-100.0	-104.8	-95.9
Romania	-47.4	-43.8	-43.6	-47.9	-45.7
Slovenia	-24.2	-18.9	-15.9	-15.2	-7.1
Slovakia	-68.3	-69.8	-65.9	-65.7	-61.9
Finland	1.2	-5.6	4.0	-5.0	-3.5
Sweden	-0.9	8.1	16.2	13.9	20.8

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

3) Real effective exchange rate - 42 trading partners (3 year % change)

This indicator is based on consumer prices to capture the determinants of changes in a country's price and cost competitiveness relative to trading partners.

If in previous years imbalances were reported for the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, in 2021 all EU countries fall between the minimum and maximum threshold allowed

Table 4.

Real effective exchange rate - 42 trading partners (3 year % change)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	0.9	7.0	2.7	2.5	0.6
Bulgaria	-3.3	4.2	4.6	7.1	3.8
Czechia	5.3	11.0	8.7	5.6	5.0
Denmark	-2.1	2.6	-0.2	0.9	-1.1
Germany	-2.0	5.3	2.0	2.4	0.5
Estonia	3.0	7.6	6.1	5.3	1.9
Ireland	-6.3	2.3	-1.4	-1.2	-2.6
Greece	-3.0	3.8	0.5	0.4	-3.1
Spain	-2.6	4.2	1.7	1.1	-0.5
France	-3.0	4.5	1.6	2.7	-0.4
Croatia	0.1	4.2	1.5	0.5	-1.5
Italy	-3.1	3.4	0.2	0.6	-1.8
Cyprus	-6.4	2.0	0.0	0.1	-2.4
Latvia	1.7	5.1	3.8	5.9	2.3
Lithuania	2.6	6.6	3.8	6.9	4.4
Luxembourg	-1.0	3.3	2.0	1.5	0.6
Hungary	0.0	2.0	0.4	-4.9	-4.1
Malta	-2.5	4.5	1.8	2.1	-1.2
Netherlands	-1.8	3.3	2.4	3.8	2.2
Austria	0.2	4.8	2.1	3.2	1.2
Poland	-3.5	0.1	2.8	1.1	-0.4
Portugal	-0.8	3.3	-0.3	0.0	-2.8
Romania	-5.6	-0.7	0.2	3.4	1.0
Slovenia	-2.0	2.0	1.0	1.9	-0.4
Slovakia	-2.0	2.5	2.6	5.3	3.1
Finland	-2.6	2.9	0.1	2.3	-0.7
Sweden	-5.5	-4.0	-8.3	-4.8	2.1

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

4) Export market share - % of world exports (5 year % change) Percentage variation over 5 years of export market shares, measured in values, with an indicative threshold of -6%. Changes in quotas can be determined by the increase/decrease in the volume of a country's exports, but also by the increase in total world exports, it is an indicator of the competitiveness of a country's production.

It is noteworthy that the imbalances that appeared in several countries following the crisis generated by the covid 19 pandemic did not exist in any country in the European Union until 2019. Thus, in 2020 Greece, Spain and France registered a decrease in competitiveness, Greece managing to return in 2021. In 2021, competitiveness problems are reported in France, Spain and Italy. Two more countries are close to the alert threshold, Portugal and Germany (with -5.82). The fact that the largest European economies decrease their market shares can be the signal of an economic crisis. Romania has inseminated economic exchanges with these countries, especially with Germany, so that it will inevitably be affected as well. Moreover, in the case of Romania, slight losses of competitiveness can be noted through the decrease from year to year of this indicator.

Table 5.

Export market share - % of world exports (5 year % change)					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	1.59	-1.34	-2.62	10.21	2.06
Bulgaria	20.06	13.02	15.09	15.50	12.24
Czechia	8.31	11.03	4.81	8.11	-1.04
Denmark	1.53	-0.03	1.73	10.62	6.56
Germany	5.66	3.25	-1.23	0.89	-5.82
Estonia	1.73	-0.29	1.77	16.85	18.27
Ireland	70.90	78.47	73.07	49.06	38.94
Greece	-0.61	6.33	3.23	-10.64	9.24
Spain	9.50	4.33	2.37	-7.33	-10.54
France	2.48	0.51	-0.76	-8.44	-11.31
Croatia	22.97	22.38	22.10	-0.49	7.84
Italy	0.58	-0.19	-2.40	-2.75	-6.26
Cyprus	21.06	21.88	22.94	27.72	14.07
Latvia	7.31	8.44	3.27	17.52	11.78
Lithuania	3.53	2.99	16.22	38.47	35.90
Luxembourg	23.60	14.23	10.48	19.77	:
Hungary	10.22	8.23	4.98	7.51	0.10
Malta	24.09	18.94	19.97	12.55	-0.77
Netherlands	1.26	1.55	-0.29	6.83	1.20
Austria	2.21	2.76	0.73	4.55	-2.26
Poland	28.34	26.42	24.66	36.11	26.25
Portugal	13.89	8.51	8.31	-1.48	-5.50
Romania	37.98	23.45	17.38	19.89	10.77
Slovenia	17.78	19.50	15.79	19.50	11.38
Slovakia	4.88	2.06	1.28	7.45	-2.78
Finland	-5.29	-4.11	3.09	11.66	4.97
Sweden	-5.73	-6.75	-2.92	3.12	-0.96

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

5) Nominal unit labor cost index (2010=100) (3 year % change). Thresholds of +9% for eurozone countries and +12% for non-eurozone countries. The increase in this indicator corresponds to an increase in labor costs that exceeds the increase in labor productivity.

There are several countries that during the analyzed period never exceeded the threshold: Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, France, Italy, Finland and Sweden.

The pandemic crisis caused that in 2020, 20 of the 27 countries of the European Union exceeded this threshold, many of them not having this problem before, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Greece and Croatia, in 2017 only 5 countries registered values above the limit of this indicator. Even in the countries below the warning threshold, it is found that the maximum of this indicator for the analyzed period is at the level of 2020. It is obvious that this is due to the fact that the level of salaries was not correlated with the stopped or much reduced production from the lockdown period as and the subsequent slow restart of economies affected by various blockages. In 2021, there is an improvement in this situation in all EU countries with two exceptions: Lithuania and Hungary.

Interesting is the situation of Romania, which had high values of this indicator (even having the record of 29% in 2018 as a result of salary policies that do not take into account the correlation with the degree of labor productivity), in 2021 a "landing" is registered sudden to a low value, far below the threshold and below the previous values, especially the renouncing of wage increases against a background of inflation and currency depreciation, the average wage converted into euros decreased compared to the previous year.

Table 6.

Nominal unit labor cost index (2010=100) (3 year % change)					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	1.4	3.9	4.9	7.5	5.8
Bulgaria	15.8	20.5	20.4	20.4	18.9
Czechia	5.7	13.1	14.5	18.7	13.9
Denmark	0.9	1.2	3.4	6.7	6.1
Germany	4.9	6.0	8.1	10.3	7.4
Estonia	12.3	14.2	15.8	15.7	10.7
Ireland	-13.9	-1.3	-3.9	-6.3	-7.9
Greece	-3.3	-1.0	-1.4	6.4	1.1
Spain	-0.6	1.0	5.7	14.3	12.3
France	1.7	2.4	0.9	5.0	4.6
Croatia	-4.0	-0.1	2.8	13.7	6.4
Italy	1.2	2.3	3.2	6.6	4.6
Cyprus	-4.6	-0.4	5.3	5.7	5.0
Latvia	14.2	14.7	15.4	18.6	16.4
Lithuania	16.3	16.4	16.7	18.3	20.7
Luxembourg	6.0	9.9	14.7	13.0	11.2
Hungary	9.3	12.4	11.8	13.9	14.7
Malta	6.7	10.1	7.2	19.6	12.9
Netherlands	0.1	3.7	6.0	14.4	11.2
Austria	4.3	5.0	5.6	12.0	9.9
Poland	4.1	8.0	8.1	14.0	11.2
Portugal	2.8	6.3	8.5	15.6	12.5
Romania	16.6	29.3	26.3	20.7	1.5
Slovenia	3.6	5.7	8.0	14.5	12.8
Slovakia	7.7	11.6	14.3	16.4	14.3
Finland	-3.7	-2.0	1.3	5.3	6.0
Sweden	4.0	8.1	7.2	8.7	5.5

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

6) House price index (2015=100) - deflated (1 year % change) Large variations on the real estate markets can be an important source of macroeconomic imbalances as happened with the real estate bubble in the United States which was the basis of the downgrade of the financial crisis in the year 2008.

Remarks:

- For the analyzed period, only Portugal registers exceeding the threshold. The explanation for this fact is that Portugal is a small country with access to the ocean and great tourist potential.

- In 2021, a maximum number of countries that exceed the reference threshold is recorded, this can be explained that from the amounts not spent in the previous year at the household level (in 2020, tourism was severely affected, sales of new cars decreased, sales with clothes decreased), could constitute the initial sums needed to purchase a house.

- Contrary to appearances, price increases on the real estate market in Romania are below the European average, and we are not in a speculative real estate bubble.

Table 7.

House price index (2015=100) - deflated (1 year % change)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	1.7	0.8	2.6	3.6	4.8
Bulgaria	3.9	4.1	3.9	5.2	4.9
Czechia	9.1	5.9	6.2	5.4	16.4
Denmark	3.5	3.7	1.4	4.7	9.5
Germany	4.6	5.1	4.4	7.1	7.6
Estonia	1.1	2.2	4.4	6.9	10.2
Ireland	9.8	8.1	0.3	-0.2	4.3
Greece	-1.4	1.7	7.2	5.6	6.3
Spain	4.6	5.2	4.1	2.2	1.7
France	2.3	1.2	2.5	4.1	4.7
Croatia	2.9	4.6	7.8	7.3	4.5
Italy	-2.1	-1.5	-0.7	2.1	0.9
Cyprus	1.2	0.5	2.6	0.7	-5.4
Latvia	5.3	6.3	5.8	2.7	7.2
Lithuania	5.2	4.5	4.6	6.4	11.0
Luxembourg	3.3	5.1	8.3	13.8	11.2
Hungary	8.6	10.7	11.8	1.6	9.7
Malta	4.3	5.0	4.2	2.2	3.8
Netherlands	6.1	7.1	4.6	6.2	11.2
Austria	3.4	2.6	4.0	6.2	9.9
Poland	1.8	4.8	6.1	6.9	3.5
Portugal	7.6	8.6	9.0	8.0	8.1
Romania	3.3	1.7	-1.9	2.2	-1.1
Slovenia	6.6	6.6	5.3	5.2	7.5
Slovakia	4.4	4.9	6.2	7.2	3.0
Finland	0.3	0.1	-0.1	1.2	2.7
Sweden	4.8	-3.3	0.4	3.3	8.1

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

7) Private sector debt - consolidated (% of GDP). The importance of this private sector debt indicator (flow or stock) is given by the fact that excessively high private sector debt increases vulnerability to economic shocks.

Because it is an indicator that varies slightly from year to year, it can be observed that during the entire period studied we have only two categories of countries: those that do not exceed the limit threshold and those that exceed it.

Cyprus, Holland, Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg register very high values.

Low values are recorded especially by the countries of the former communist bloc whose economic development after the fall of the communist regimes meant that the incipient development of the private sector as well as the weak development of financial institutions made the cumulative loans of the private sector not to reach high levels. Thus, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania have this indicator far below the threshold. Romania, due to the slower development of the market economy, has the lowest values of this indicator throughout the analyzed period, which shows on the one hand that there are no risks associated with this indicator, and on the other hand, that the credit system has room to keep growing.

Table 8.

Private sector debt - consolidated (% of GDP)					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	187.8	181.0	178.6	184.3	174.6
Bulgaria	98.6	95.0	90.7	94.3	:
Czechia	80.3	83.0	78.6	81.7	:
Denmark	216.7	215.3	221.2	220.9	211.5
Germany	106.6	107.8	110.7	118.8	:
Estonia	106.2	101.2	98.9	102.0	:
Ireland	249.1	230.7	209.3	188.9	:
Greece	120.6	119.2	110.5	125.4	121.0
Spain	139.2	132.6	128.5	147.1	138.1
France	145.0	148.4	152.6	173.1	166.8
Croatia	96.3	92.1	88.3	98.0	:
Italy	109.4	107.8	106.0	118.4	:
Cyprus	304.3	282.9	249.9	259.7	:
Latvia	75.6	69.7	66.2	66.7	:
Lithuania	56.2	56.1	55.3	54.7	:
Luxembourg	286.5	283.9	303.6	314.0	:
Hungary	69.9	68.7	67.1	76.1	78.4
Malta	123.8	121.5	121.3	138.9	:
Netherlands	247.6	241.3	229.9	233.1	229.3
Austria	122.3	122.8	121.6	130.6	:
Poland	76.9	76.8	73.9	75.6	71.1
Portugal	163.0	155.1	149.5	163.7	157.6
Romania	50.9	47.5	46.7	48.4	47.2
Slovenia	76.1	72.5	68.6	69.5	66.1
Slovakia	90.0	91.9	92.1	95.3	:
Finland	147.7	145.4	146.1	153.3	:
Sweden	198.7	195.0	200.0	212.8	215.2

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

8) Private sector credit flow - consolidated (% of GDP)

This indicator is the flow equivalent of private sector debt as a stock indicator.

Credit expansion is an indicator of the future increase in house prices, and financial crises can be anticipated by a sustained increase in credits in the economy.

In this chapter, we only record the exceeding of the limit value of Luxembourg in 2019 and 2020 as well as those of Sweden in 2020 and 2021.

Romania registers very low values of this indicator.

Table 9.

Private sector credit flow - consolidated (% of GDP)					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	2.0	-2.0	4.9	0.1	7.1
Bulgaria	4.5	3.9	5.6	4.2	:
Czechia	6.0	6.8	1.4	2.3	:
Denmark	2.0	4.8	10.5	4.9	9.5
Germany	4.1	6.2	5.8	5.9	:
Estonia	4.2	4.6	3.4	3.5	:
Ireland	0.3	-8.8	-9.6	-1.8	:
Greece	-1.2	-0.9	-0.9	5.5	0.5
Spain	0.6	0.0	1.1	4.4	2.4
France	7.1	8.2	7.9	12.8	6.4
Croatia	1.5	2.2	1.1	1.3	:
Italy	1.2	2.0	0.3	4.1	:
Cyprus	7.4	11.5	1.7	-2.5	:
Latvia	2.7	-0.2	1.1	-1.8	:
Lithuania	4.5	4.3	2.6	0.3	:
Luxembourg	-4.7	5.3	19.7	43.7	:
Hungary	0.6	4.2	3.9	7.7	11.6
Malta	6.5	6.9	10.2	9.0	:
Netherlands	3.5	5.2	-0.3	-0.7	11.7
Austria	3.6	4.9	5.0	4.7	:
Poland	3.0	3.7	3.6	1.6	3.8
Portugal	2.9	0.8	2.6	4.4	4.8
Romania	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.3	3.7
Slovenia	0.9	1.3	0.8	-0.9	3.3
Slovakia	5.0	7.3	4.3	3.7	:
Finland	8.3	4.3	6.5	6.4	:
Sweden	13.2	8.9	9.7	14.4	16.6

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

9) General government gross debt (% of GDP)

A high level of debt brings a series of problems such as: the sustainability of the debt and the possibility of insolvency, the increase in the interest rate on the following loans, the increase in the amount of interest to burdensome values, so that the budget revenues are spent on the payment of loans and less with investments, etc. is one of the most used indicators for macro-level analysis of an economy.

The case of the group of southern economies with a high degree of indebtedness is known: Portugal, Italy, Greece, Spain with a very high degree of indebtedness, to which are added other countries that have exceeded the limit value of 60% of GDP: Belgium, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and Finland.

At the other pole are countries with a low degree of indebtedness such as: Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, the Baltic countries (all of which had communist regimes until the 90s) but also Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Malta.

Table 10.

General government gross debt (% of GDP)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	102.0	99.8	97.7	112.8	108.2
Bulgaria	25.1	22.1	20.0	24.7	25.1
Czechia	34.2	32.1	30.1	37.7	41.9
Denmark	35.9	34.0	33.6	42.1	36.7
Germany	64.6	61.2	58.9	68.7	69.3
Estonia	9.1	8.2	8.6	19.0	18.1
Ireland	67.8	63.1	57.2	58.4	56.0
Greece	179.5	186.4	180.7	206.3	193.3
Spain	101.9	100.5	98.3	120.0	118.4
France	98.1	97.8	97.4	114.6	112.9
Croatia	76.7	73.3	71.1	87.3	79.8
Italy	134.2	134.4	134.1	155.3	150.8
Cyprus	92.9	98.4	91.1	115.0	103.6
Latvia	39.0	37.1	36.7	43.3	44.8
Lithuania	39.1	33.7	35.9	46.6	44.3
Luxembourg	21.8	20.8	22.3	24.8	24.4
Hungary	72.1	69.1	65.5	79.6	76.8
Malta	47.7	43.7	40.7	53.4	57.0
Netherlands	56.9	52.4	48.5	54.3	52.1
Austria	78.5	74.1	70.6	83.3	82.8
Poland	50.6	48.8	45.6	57.1	53.8
Portugal	126.1	121.5	116.6	135.2	127.4
Romania	35.1	34.7	35.3	47.2	48.8
Slovenia	74.2	70.3	65.6	79.8	74.7
Slovakia	51.6	49.6	48.1	59.7	63.1
Finland	61.2	59.8	59.6	69.0	65.8
Sweden	40.7	38.9	34.9	39.6	36.7

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

After the debt crisis of 2012, at the urging of the German Chancellor at that time, Angela Merkel, the countries of the European Union, in order to avoid future insolvency situations in which the PIGS countries found themselves, began to reduce their public debt, and this trend continued until the year 2019. But due to the huge need to overcome the problems arising from the COVID 19 pandemic, governments resorted to massive loans and in all European Union countries, without exception, there were considerable increases in this indicator in the following year (2020). However, against the background of the economic recovery from 2021, in 10 of the 17 states this indicator decreased. Noted the case of Germany, which, although it was the initiator of this trend followed at the level of the leadership of the states of the union, if until 2018 it recorded successive decreases, still being above the 60% limit, in 2019 it managed to fall below this limit, because in the year immediately following, against the background of the pandemic, to return to the warning zone (over 60%), and this growth continued in 2021. The only country that managed to get out of the "red zone" is Ireland in 2018 and managed to keep the public debt below the warning level even under the pressure generated by the additional financing needs generated by the pandemic.

For Romania, it should be noted that although the public debt was at a reassuring rate of around 35% of GDP, in 2020 it registered a rapid increase to 47.2% in 2020 and it also increased in 2021 to 48.8 %, economic analyzes showing that in the following years it will be on an upward trend.

10) Unemployment rate (3 year average)

The unemployment rate shows the problems of adapting an economy to changes. A developing economy has decreasing unemployment and vice versa, an economy in crisis has increasing unemployment.

Table 11.

Unemployment rate (3 year average)					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	7.9	7.0	6.2	5.8	5.9
Bulgaria	8.6	7.3	6.2	5.8	5.5
Czechia	4.0	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.5
Denmark	6.0	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.2
Germany	4.0	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.4
Estonia	6.3	6.0	5.2	5.6	5.9
Ireland	8.3	7.0	5.8	5.6	5.7
Greece	23.6	21.8	19.8	18.4	16.7
Spain	19.6	17.4	15.5	15.0	14.8
France	9.9	9.5	8.9	8.5	8.1
Croatia	13.5	10.9	8.8	7.5	7.2
Italy	11.7	11.2	10.6	9.9	9.6
Cyprus	13.0	10.8	8.9	7.7	7.4
Latvia	9.4	8.6	7.5	7.3	7.3
Lithuania	8.0	7.1	6.5	7.0	7.3
Luxembourg	6.2	5.8	5.6	6.0	5.9
Hungary	5.2	4.2	3.6	3.7	3.8
Malta	4.7	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.8
Netherlands	6.9	5.9	5.1	4.7	4.5
Austria	6.2	5.9	5.3	5.3	5.7
Poland	6.3	5.1	4.1	3.5	3.3

Portugal	11.2	9.3	7.7	7.0	6.8
Romania	7.2	6.2	5.4	5.4	5.5
Slovenia	7.9	6.6	5.4	4.8	4.7
Slovakia	9.7	8.1	6.8	6.3	6.4
Finland	9.0	8.4	7.7	7.3	7.4
Sweden	7.2	6.8	6.8	7.3	8.1

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

In this chapter, we have a few countries in the alert area, namely Greece, Spain and Italy (again some countries from the PIIGS group!) but which managed to decrease during the period analyzing the magnitude of the phenomenon. Along with them was Croatia, Cyprus and Portugal, but these countries managed to reduce this indicator below the 10% limit. It should be noted that at the level of all countries there is an improvement in this indicator from 2017 to 2020 as a result of the slow overcoming of the financial crisis of 2008 and the debt crisis of 2012. Instead, in 2021 a return to the upward trend can be noted, due to the economic crisis triggered by the COVID 19 pandemic.

In recent years, Romania has recorded a relatively low average unemployment rate, and this fact would be gratifying if we did not take into account the huge number of those who went to work abroad or those who permanently immigrated to other countries. Obviously, without the departure of several million people from the country, the unemployment rate would have been much higher.

11) Total financial sector liabilities - non-consolidated (1 year % change). Indicative threshold is of 16.5%.

Table 12.

Total financial sector liabilities - non-consolidated (1 year % change)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	1.4	-3.3	4.7	8.6	7.5
Bulgaria	7.1	6.6	5.2	11.1	:
Czechia	28.3	3.4	4.6	4.8	7.9
Denmark	2.5	-0.3	13.4	5.5	10.4
Germany	4.1	3.2	7.3	11.4	7.2
Estonia	12.3	6.6	11.6	17.9	17.5
Ireland	4.2	5.2	15.3	7.2	:
Greece	-13.0	-4.7	11.6	27.5	14.3
Spain	4.4	-1.4	0.7	10.0	6.6
France	4.3	1.8	7.2	11.8	7.2
Croatia	3.9	4.5	6.8	7.3	:
Italy	1.9	0.1	4.7	7.3	6.2
Cyprus	0.8	-1.8	5.6	-2.5	-3.2
Latvia	6.2	-3.5	4.6	10.8	:
Lithuania	12.9	9.1	6.2	28.5	:
Luxembourg	0.5	-1.1	3.8	-3.6	:
Hungary	-7.1	-9.1	36.8	55.7	14.1
Malta	7.7	2.7	7.1	1.9	:
Netherlands	0.5	-2.8	7.9	1.4	-0.3
Austria	4.4	-0.8	4.3	10.6	:
Poland	4.7	3.3	4.3	11.5	13.6
Portugal	1.3	0.4	-0.2	6.7	7.0
Romania	8.2	3.4	10.3	13.4	13.3
Slovenia	5.3	4.1	9.9	14.0	14.1

Slovakia	16.6	9.0	5.6	9.9	:
Finland	-4.1	20.1	7.9	7.8	:
Sweden	6.9	-1.3	11.5	10.7	10.9

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

Like the two indicators of private sector indebtedness, the rapid expansion of the financial sector can indicate the emergence of a financial crisis. The indicator reflects the links between the financial sector and the economy.

Several countries register high values for this indicator, but only for short periods, one year or two at most: Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovakia and Finland. In 2021, only Estonia registers a value higher than that of the threshold value, (but the data for many other countries does not exist for the time being)

Romania registers small values beyond the risk zone, but increasing, but approaching the threshold value.

The last three indicators come to complete the unemployment indicator through some specific indicators:

12) Activity rate - % of total population aged 15-64 (3 year change in p.p.). The threshold is -0.2pp.

Table 13.

Activity rate - % of total population aged 15-64 (3 year change in p.p)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	0.2	0.9	1.4	0.4	1.1
Bulgaria	2.3	2.2	4.5	0.9	0.6
Czechia	2.4	2.6	1.7	0.5	0.0
Denmark	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.4
Germany	0.5	1.1	1.3	0.3	1.2
Estonia	3.3	2.3	1.3	0.4	-0.2
Ireland	0.8	0.8	0.6	-1.8	1.8
Greece	0.9	0.4	0.3	-2.9	-0.8
Spain	-0.3	-0.6	-0.4	-1.7	0.0
France	0.4	0.6	0.3	-0.4	0.2
Croatia	0.3	-0.6	0.9	0.7	2.4
Italy	1.7	1.8	0.9	-1.8	-1.1
Cyprus	-0.4	1.1	2.6	1.9	1.7
Latvia	2.5	1.9	1.1	1.1	-1.8
Lithuania	2.2	3.2	2.5	2.6	0.9
Luxembourg	-0.6	0.2	2.0	2.0	2.1
Hungary	4.3	3.6	2.6	2.0	2.1
Malta	4.4	5.9	5.3	4.9	3.5
Netherlands	0.7	0.6	1.2	1.2	1.0
Austria	1.1	1.3	0.7	-0.4	0.1
Poland	2.3	2.6	2.1	1.4	3.4
Portugal	2.0	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.7
Romania	3.0	2.5	3.1	2.3	3.2
Slovenia	3.2	3.2	3.5	0.2	0.6
Slovakia	1.9	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.2
Finland	1.2	2.2	2.3	1.5	1.8
Sweden	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.6

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

The limit value is exceeded in several years in some of the PIGS countries: Greece, Italy, Spain, and only for a single year in other countries of the union: Estonia, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, only for a single year showing that they are momentary problems that do not persist for long periods of time. The only country where this problem extends over a longer period is Spain, however, it manages to fix this problem in 2021.

It can be noted that if in 2018 only one country exceeded the warning value, in 2020 and 2021 and 4 respectively 4 countries exceed the threshold, and this is due to the disruptions in the labor market generated by the pandemic.

13) Long term unemployment rate - % of active population aged 15-74 (3 year change in p.p.). The threshold is 0.5 pp.

For this indicator, in the 5 years analyzed, only two exceedances of the threshold value are recorded; namely Luxembourg in 2017 and Lithuania in 2021.

Table 14.

**Long term unemployment rate - % of active population aged 15-74
(3 year change in p.p)**

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	-0.8	-1.4	-1.6	-1.0	0.0
Bulgaria	-3.5	-2.5	-2.1	-1.2	-1.0
Czechia	-1.7	-1.7	-1.1	-0.4	0.1
Denmark	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-0.3	0.0
Germany	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2
Estonia	-1.3	-1.1	-1.3	-0.8	0.3
Ireland	-3.6	-3.2	-2.6	-1.6	-0.3
Greece	-3.2	-3.9	-4.1	-3.8	-3.3
Spain	-5.2	-5.0	-4.2	-2.7	-0.2
France	-0.2	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-0.2
Croatia	-5.5	-6.8	-4.2	-2.5	-0.6
Italy	-1.3	-0.9	-1.2	-1.8	-1.1
Cyprus	-3.2	-4.1	-3.7	-2.4	-0.1
Latvia	-1.5	-1.5	-1.7	-1.2	-1.1
Lithuania	-2.1	-1.9	-1.1	-0.2	0.6
Luxembourg	0.5	-0.5	-0.9	-0.4	0.4
Hungary	-2.0	-1.6	-1.2	-0.5	-0.1
Malta	-0.9	-0.9	-1.5	-0.9	-0.9
Netherlands	-1.0	-1.5	-1.4	-1.0	-0.4
Austria	0.4	-0.3	-1.0	-0.6	0.3
Poland	-2.4	-2.0	-1.5	-0.9	-0.1
Portugal	-4.1	-4.3	-3.6	-2.3	-0.3
Romania	-1.0	-1.4	-1.4	-0.6	-0.2
Slovenia	-2.2	-2.5	-2.4	-1.2	-0.3
Slovakia	-4.8	-4.1	-2.9	-2.2	-0.8
Finland	0.2	-0.9	-1.4	-1.1	-0.2
Sweden	-0.3	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2	0.2

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

14) Youth unemployment rate - % of active population aged 15-24 (3 year change in p.p.). The threshold is 2 percentage points.

With this indicator, the influence of the pandemic on the quality of the labor force is obvious, namely, if until 2019 there is not a single country that exceeds the threshold value, in 2020 there are already 6 countries that enter the alert zone (Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Slovenia and Sweden), and in the following year two more countries will be added to them (Belgium and Latvia).

In none of the three additional indicators of employment, Romania does not exceed the established threshold values throughout the period.

Table 15.

**Youth unemployment rate - % of active population aged 15-24
(3 year change in p.p)**

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Country					
Belgium	-4.0	-6.5	-5.8	-3.5	2.2
Bulgaria	-10.8	-8.8	-8.3	1.3	-0.1
Czechia	-8.0	-5.9	-4.9	0.1	1.5
Denmark	-1.8	-1.7	-2.1	-0.8	0.3
Germany	-1.1	-1.1	-1.3	0.8	0.3
Estonia	-2.8	-2.3	-2.4	6.2	4.7
Ireland	-9.0	-6.4	-4.3	1.4	0.7
Greece	-8.5	-9.1	-10.7	-6.5	-5.7
Spain	-14.6	-14.0	-11.9	-0.3	0.5
France	-2.2	-4.1	-5.3	-2.0	-3.1
Croatia	-18.1	-18.6	-14.7	-6.3	-1.8
Italy	-8.1	-8.1	-8.5	-4.8	-2.5
Cyprus	-11.3	-12.6	-12.5	-6.5	-3.1
Latvia	-2.6	-4.1	-4.8	-2.1	2.6
Lithuania	-6.0	-5.2	-2.6	6.3	3.2
Luxembourg	-7.2	-3.1	-1.9	7.8	2.7
Hungary	-9.6	-7.2	-1.5	2.0	3.6
Malta	-1.1	-2.5	-1.4	0.3	0.3
Netherlands	-3.4	-3.6	-3.6	0.2	0.4
Austria	-0.5	-1.3	-2.9	1.2	1.0
Poland	-9.2	-9.2	-7.9	-4.0	0.1
Portugal	-10.9	-11.7	-9.7	-1.4	3.1
Romania	-7.0	-6.8	-4.9	-1.4	0.5
Slovenia	-9.2	-7.5	-7.2	3.0	3.9
Slovakia	-11.0	-11.9	-6.3	0.4	4.8
Finland	-0.5	-5.2	-2.8	1.0	-0.2
Sweden	-5.1	-2.9	1.1	6.3	7.9

Conclusions

The dashboard is a tool that makes the work of specialists easier, showing at any moment from which field the economic problems of the countries in the European Union can appear and what scope the respective problem can have, how it can evolve and if other countries of the union can also be contaminated. In the future, the scoreboard can be improved by adding new indicators, by establishing alert thresholds based on analyzes and possibly introducing multiple thresholds depending on the extent of the studied phenomenon. For detailed analyses, the 21 additional indicators are also used, and the analyzes take into account the specifics of the analyzed country and the correlations between the indicators.

In the framework of the analysis carried out, the table proves its efficiency, managing to capture many existing imbalances in the countries of the European Union, as well as the influence of the covid 19 pandemic on the economies through characteristic developments of 2020 and 2021, namely the increase in each studied indicator of the number of countries affected by an imbalance highlighted by exceeding the threshold values.

Romania's situation seems to be a paradoxical one, namely that it fulfills a greater number of the stability criteria compared to many other countries with a developed economy, however, many of the values of the analyzed indicators are on an upward trend, which requires the governments to pay attention to the developments their subsequent ones.

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