

THE EVOLUTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN ROMANIA*

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Abstract

Social security is an area of major importance in a society in continuous change. Insuring persons for different types of risks (illness, poverty, death) has represented an important component from the moment the very first system of social security was set up in Germany. Outlined for the first time in 1895, the social security system in Romania has been developing continuously ever since and its evolution is characterized by a constant correlation with the evolution of the needs of the society.

In present, the social security system includes both the social insurance component and the social assistance one and tends towards globalization through the process of coordinating the social security systems of EU member states.

Keywords: *Public Law, social security, evolution, system*

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Introduction

Social security represents a field of major importance within any society, having implications upon the protection of citizens against poverty, marginalization and exclusion and against risks, upon the well-being of people but also upon the national economy¹. Social security is a guarantee that every person can have the material means to insure its own and its family's subsistence, in conditions of risk. These risks can be of social nature or of economic nature that can determine the reduction or even loss of the capacity of a person to earn. Social risks are considered those events that impact the economic situation of individuals by

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¹Costel Gălcă, *The Concept of Social Security, in Labour law and social security law Review*, no. 1/2008, p. 12.

either diminishing the incomes or, in another point of view, increasing expensis. Social risks can be of different nature, either physical, of professional origin (work accident or professional illness) or of extraprofessional nature (illness, maternity, invalidity, agedness, death). Also, risks can be economic, generated by a series of situations when the work force finds itself in incapacity to work due to lack of employment opportunities².

Covering risks has been different from one period to another and is different from one state to the other. The needs of people and the risks that people have been exposed to over time have determined the apparition of social security systems based on solidarity.

Evolution aspects of social security systems

Previous to the industrial revolution, social protection was carried out through the Church. This was the institutions that took care of social assistance and charity actions. In England, in the year 1601, the state assumed a charitable role by adopting the so-called *poverty law* that insured assistance for sick and disabled persons³. In France, money was collected from every mine, for the purpose of insuring medical assistance for those wounded and sick, free of charge⁴.

Social security systems appeared relatively late, the first one being the social security system implemented during the times of Otto von Bismarck as a concept associated with the new concept of state. At that time, it was considered that the state is responsible not only for the protection of human rights but also for the promotion of the well being of its citizens, especially for those found in need, through the institutions and means it has at its disposal⁵. The german security system envisaged, in the first instance, measures of social insurance, the insured risk being that of labor incapacity as a consequence of work accidents. From a legislative perspective, laws were enacted concerning insurances against sickness (1883), laws regarding insurances for work accidents (1884) and laws on insurances for old-age and invalidity (1889). This system had, as a unique target group, workers that were employed in industry and earned a professional income situated lower than the threshold set by law. The benefits given were directly proportional to the professional income, having the role of replacing these; participation in the system was mandatory and the financing was done by providing subsidies from the state budget⁶.

²Alexandru Țiclea, *Social Security Law*, Bucharest, Universul Juridic Publishing House, 2009, p. 5.

³Cecilia Deme, *The Role of Social Policies in the State of Well-Fare*, in *Transylvanian Revue of Administrative Sciences*, no. 1/2006, p.39.

⁴*Ibidem*.

⁵Cecilia Deme, *cited above*, p.39.

⁶Alexandru Țiclea, Laura Georgescu, *Social Security Law*, Universul Juridic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2015, p. 9; Sorin George Toma, *Health Systems. The German Model*, p.10.

Following the German model, Sweden, Denmark and England⁷ set up their own social security systems, some of these covering also the protection of those unemployed. In the USA, in 1935, the *Social Security Law* was adopted and regulated a system of benefits for those unemployed. The law also provided for social assistance policies for marginalized persons and insurances covering old-age and death for the families of the workers⁸.

The social security law from New Zealand, from 1938, brings an element of novelty – the desire to completely abolish the state of need of poor persons and therefore provided, in a first form, the right of any citizen to social insurance. The beneficiaries of this law were citizens that earned incomes situated at a lower level than the minimum provided by the law. The benefits granted were fix and uniform and had the purpose of insuring a proper life standard and not to become a replacement income for the professional one. The financing of the system was covered through a tax on income⁹.

In England, in 1942, the report of Lord Beveridge concerning the existing social-economic status promoted the idea of spreading the social security policy to the level of the entire population, and thus empowering the idea of social security. The report made references to the high number of risks that existed, and the allowances offered by the system were uniform¹⁰.

The Evolution of the Social Security System in Romania

In Romania, the need for a social security system has crystalized in a multi-stage process, once the occupational system has developed and the occupational hierarchy set¹¹.

In the 1800s, the existing crafts associations have initiated actions to set-up certain funds from subscriptions, for the purpose of covering risks such as disease and old-age for those members of the crafts associations that needed such support. As such, in the Romanian Country Region and Moldova Region existed the “The Mercy Box”¹² and in Transylvania these were called “Brotherly Chests”¹³.

⁷In 1938, for the first time, social insurance benefits are granted to all persons, regardless of the state of provenance.

⁸Alexandru Țiclea, *Laura Georgescu*, cited above, p. 10.

⁹*Ibidem*.

¹⁰*Ibidem*.

¹¹Costel Gălcă, *The Emergence and Development of the Social Security System in Romania*, in *Romanian Labour Law Review*, no. 1/2006.

¹²At the end of the XVIIIth century, for the purpose of insuring the social protection of the poor population in Moldova, a foundation named “The Mercy Chest” was created – **Anatolii Rojco, Eleonora Ciobanu**, *Evolution of the Social Protection System of the Population of Moldova (retrospection)*, in the *Economy Institute Annals, Finance and Statistics*, p.141.

¹³ The mutual aid organizations existed on the territory of Transylvania in the XVIIIth century under the name of “Chests of brotherly keep”(1722 - Reșița, 1890 - Saschiz) and had the role of

At the end of the XIXth century, given the industrial revolution, the category of industrial workers appears, category depending entirely on the amount and payment regularity of salaries. Initially, the so-called “Aid Associations” were set-up, with funds constituted from the subscriptions paid by all its members. Later, in 1873, “aid companies” and “mutual aid companies” appeared¹⁴.

Shortly after the social security system was set-up in Germany, an inchoate form of such a system appeared in Romania also – the insurance of workers.

In 1895, mandatory social insurances were regulated, for persons that were employed in the mining industry and in the oil industry, by the adoption of the so-called *Mine law*. Mutual companies and pensions funds were also set-up and the funds of these were constituted through the equal contribution of the employer and the workers. The *Handcrafts Law* of 1902 provided for the constitution of a corporate-based system of social insurances, the beneficiaries being the hancraftsmen exclusively¹⁵.

In 1910 the “Sanitary Law” was adopted and this legislative act provided for the set-up of “aid and illness companies”. The funds were made up of contributions, in equal parts, from workers and employers. The *Nenițescu*¹⁶ Law in 1912, that regulated handcrafts, credit and labor insurances, introduced insurances for the case of illness and death and also, with a mandatory character, old-age, invalidity and accidents insurances. The workers, the employers and also the state contributed to the constitution of these funds, but their contributions were different. For labor accidents, the funds were constituted exclusively from the contributions of the employers. For cases such as illness, maternity or death the contributions belonged exclusively to the employees. For the payment of invalidity or old-age pensions, the contributions were equally divided between the employer, the employees and the state, each contributing with one third.

In 1918, on the territory of Romania, the law was not unitary and in fact 3 laws were applicable: *the Romanian law in the Old Kingdom, the Hungarian law in Transylvania and the Austrian law in Bucovina Region*¹⁷.

Following the economic crisis that underwent in the 1929-1933 period, the *Law for the unification of social insurances* from all the regions and provinces of the

keeping amounts of money for the crafts and of aiding the craftsmen from these crafts associations at different events: marriages, christianings, deaths or in case of fires, plagues, floodings. **Gabriel Stănilă**, *The Role of Mutual Aid Companies of Retired People in the context of Local Development*, in *Life Quality Review*, p. 176.

¹⁴ *The History of Insurances in Romania*, <https://legeaz.net/dictionar-juridic/istoria-asigurarilor-in-romania>. *The History of the Evolution of Social Security Systems*.

¹⁵ **Alexandru Țiclea, Laura Georgescu**, cited above, p. 10.

¹⁶ Published in the Official Gazette, no. 236, of January 27th, 1912.

¹⁷ **Marian Preda** (coord.), *The Pension Insurance System in Romania in the Transition Period: Major Problems and Solutions*, Study no. 9, European Institute in Romania - Impact Studies (PAIS II), Bucharest, p. 10.

country was adopted. The Ioanițescu Law was the first law in the field of social insurances that was applied in a unitary manner on the entire territory of Romania. This law provided that the management of the social insurance system belonged to the employers and the state. However, the risk of old-age was not insured, there weren't any support systems in case of unemployment and farmers were not included in the category of insured persons. The law assimilated professional diseases to labor accidents and the payment of assistance in case of labor incapacity was done from the very first day. According to this law, the contribution for social insurance was paid by both the employees and the employer, equally, and the level of this contribution was set at 6%. The state had the obligation to grant subsidies only for the pension's funds. This obligation remained mandatory for the state until 1944.

In 1938 a new law¹⁸ was adopted according to which social insurance funds were set-up through a unique contribution of 8% applied to the medium salary of the contribution class¹⁹, payable in equal parts by the employees and the employers. The quantum of this contribution increased to 14% in 1944. Payment of this contribution was done by the employer that deduced the part of the contribution belonging to the employee from its salary.

The social insurance system for old-age was altered in 1944²⁰, the autonomous pension funds were eliminated, as well as 100 private pension funds.

State social insurances appeared in 1949. Through the provisions of Law no. 10/1949 *for the organization of state social insurances and the constitution for social insurance funds*, social insurances were entirely taken over by the state, the enterprises and state institutions. Pension funds, at their turn, were taken over and administrated by the state. The quantum of old-age pensions was situated at the level of 50-80% of the salary²¹.

¹⁸Law no. 3499/1938 *of social insurances*, published in the Official Gazette no. 237 from October 12th, 1938. According to this law, crafts associations had the right to "Create and lead institutions with an economic character, in the interest of their own members, as well as production or consumption cooperative societies or institutions with a social character, or mutual aid funds, institutions that will have, nevertheless, separate accountings".

¹⁹ There existed 8 classes.

²⁰Law no. 641/1944 *for the abolishment of anti-jewish legislative measures*, published in the Official Gazette no. 248 from December 19th, 1944, provided that jew public servants that had been averted from the offices they occupied had the right to receive pensions and that the period of time that they had been suspended for will be considered as "usefull time" that will be taken into account for the pension, without the obligation of paying to the Pension Fund. "In those cases when the public seroant had deceased, either before or after it was released form its office, the General Pensions Fund is obliged to regulate and pay the pension rights to its lawfull successors, at the time of the death, and in those situations when the payment of the pension was suspended, the amounts of money not paid in the past will be paid retroactively".

²¹ **Marian Preda, Cristina Doboș, Vlad Grigoraș**, *The Pension Insurance System in Romania in the Transition Period: Major Problems and Solutions*, IER, 2004, p.18.

Social insurances, after 1949, became the main pillar of social protection in Romania, while unemployment benefits and social insurance benefits were not recognized. In these conditions, a great percentage of the social protection expenses were allocated towards the social insurance fund, these expenses being concentrated especially on granting pensions (for old-age, invalidity, survivors pensions) and also other types of benefits (in case of illness, death, maternity).

In 1953 contributions to social insurances were set-up and the percentage of these contributions was different depending on the field of activity, varying from 5% for the household staff employed by workers to 15% for those employed in the coal-mining industry. The amounts allocated for the coverage of social risks were restricted and the funds were distributed for financing certain objectives that had no connection with the social protection system.

The legislation in force underwent numerous alterations and add-ins, through the provisions of Law no. 27/1966 regarding *state social insurance pensions and suplimentary pension*²², the provisions of Law no. 3/1977 concerning *state social insurance pensions and social assistance*²³ and the provisions of Law no. 4/1977 regarding *pensions and other social insurance rights of the members of agriculture production cooperatives*²⁴.

The provisions of Law no. 3/1977 lead to a deterioration of the conditions set for obtaining the pension, regarding the required age for retirement and the contributory period of time²⁵. The beneficiaries of the right to pension were those that had carried-out "*a labor in sectors of material or social and cultural production, usefull for the society*"²⁶. The amount of the pension was established in relation to the contribution each person has brought to the development of the society and was differentiated according to the period of service, the received retribution and the labor group. The law also regulated the right to invalidity pension of persons that totally or partially lost their ability to work. The funds for the payment of pensions were constituted from the contributions paid by the socialist units but also from the state budget. The retirement age was set at 62 years for men and 57 years for women and the minimum contributory period of time was 30 years for both men and women equally. Law no. 3/1977 also provided the right of persons that fulfilled the contributory period requirements to retire at the age of 60 years in case of men and 55 years in case of women. Also, certain reductions of the retirement age were permitted for women that had 3 or more children and for persons that

²²Published in the Official Buletin, no. 17-18 from February 1st, 1969.

²³Published in the Official Buletin, no. 82 from August 6th, 1977.

²⁴Published in the Official Buletin, no. 61 from July 8th, 1977.

²⁵Costel Gâlcă, *The concept of social security*, in *Labour law and social security law Review*, no. 1/2008, p. 12.

²⁶Article 1 of Law no. 3/1977 concerning *state social insurance pensions and social assistance*.

were classified into group I and II of labor. The amount of the pension was calculated by taking into account the last 5 consecutive years worked²⁷.

After 1989, social insurances and social assistance have suffered changes regarding the organization, the financing and the types of benefits provided. The reforms in social areas were slow and difficult and had a negative impact on the social protection system. During the 90's, normative acts were elaborated that provided social reparation measures that benefited to different categories of the population. Concerning the financing of the social insurance system, we can mention that a unique tax rate for social insurance was established – 20%, payable by both natural persons and legal persons that employed personnel, rate that was increased in 1991 to 22% after the compensation of the price of drugs was introduced. New measures were initiated and legally regulated such as the increase of the contribution and its differentiation according with the frequency every social risk appeared and the advantages certain categories of employees benefited of. The state social insurance budget derived from the State budget and became one of the components of the National Consolidated Public Budget.

For the purpose of ensuring equity between different categories of insured persons, differentiated contributions were introduced in the attempt of having a closer correlation between the contribution paid during the labor period and the benefits obtained at retirement age, depending of the labor group in which the insured had worked in. The contribution owed by legal and natural persons that hired contractual labor force was established differentiated at 25-35% from the earning of the employees, including in these differentiated contributions also a 2% for compensated prices for drugs.

The supplementary pension funds, the social insurance fund for peasant, the unemployment fund, the risk and accident fund and the special health fund were also included in the category of funds dedicated to social protection.

Law no. 3/1977 was altered by Law no. 49/1992 *for the amendment of certain regulations in the social insurance legislation*. This legislative act brought changes that were determined by the need to insure the functionality of the system. The pension was established by taking into account, as calculation basis, the average of the basic pay and certain categories of increments of the last consecutively worked 5 years, chosen from the last 10 years of activity. New provisions were introduced concerning the supplementary pension. This was made up of the contributions paid by legal and natural persons that used hired employees, contributions that were transferred into a special account at the Deposit and Consignment Office²⁸.

Law no. 19/2000 regarding the *public system of pensions and social insurances* was adopted in the year 2000²⁹. The public system of pensions was configured

²⁷Law no. 3/1977 concerning *state social insurance pensions and social assistance*.

²⁸Published in the Official Buletin no. 107 from 26th of May 1992.

²⁹Published in the Official Buletin no. 140 from 1st of April 2000.

based on the harmonization between the social protection system and the communitary principles regarding non-discrimination. The public system was therefore organized based on a series of principles: the principle of unicity, the principle of equality, of social solidarity, the binding principle, the principle of contributivity, the principle of distribution and the principle of autonomy. The Pensions and other social insurances Fund was set up, having legal personality and attributions in operating the public system of pensions. In the subordination of the National Pensions and other social insurances Fund³⁰ county Pensions Funds and the Pensions Fund of the city of Bucharest were set-up under the denomination of territorial Pensions Funds. The law established the categories of persons that had to be insured as well as the right of persons that were not part of this category to benefit from insurance on the basis of an insurance contract³¹. The law also established the categories of pensions, as follows: the pension for reaching the age limit, anticipated pension, the partially anticipated pension, the invalidity pension and the survivors' pensions. The standard age for retirement was 60 years for women and 65 for men. The minimum period of contribution was 10 years and this period was to be increased up to 15 years, while the maximum period of contribution was 30 years for women and 35 years for men. The contribution quota were set differently depending of the work conditions: normal, special, distinctive. The amounts of money exempted from the obligation to pay the social insurance contribution were not taken into consideration in establishing the quantum of social insurance payments. Besides the right to pension, Law no. 19/2000 also regulated the benefit for temporary incapacity to work, caused by ordinary illnesses or by accidents that took place outside the work place and the work hours, professional diseases and labor accidents; allowances for preventing diseases and for the recovery of the labor capacity; the maternity allowance; the allowance for raising the child or taking care of the sick child; the death allowance.

A new methodology to calculate the quantum of the pension was introduced, based on a score, taking into consideration the level of the contributions paid for each year of work. The level of the pension was determined by multiplying the average year score made by the insured person during the contribution time-period and the value of a pension point³².

The public pension system regulated only those categories of employees that benefited from pensions and the pensions for the military personel was regulated separately³³.

³⁰ Pension and other social insurance rights National Fund.

³¹ See article 5 of Law no. 19/2000 2000 *regarding the public system of pensions and social insurances*.

³² The value of a pension point is the same for all types of pensions, from the month the retirement started.

³³ Law no. 164/2001 *regarding state military pensions*.

In 2004 Law no. 411/2004 concerning the private managed pension's funds³⁴ and Law no. 249/2004 on occupational pensions³⁵ were adopted.

The financial resources of private managed pension's funds, set-up on the basis of the provisions of law no. 411/2004 were made-up of the net contributions converted to fund units, the rights due to beneficiaries and that are not claimed within the general limitation period, the interest rates and the interest received on account of late payment of contributions that are not transferred on time as well as the amounts of money earned from investing the revenues.³⁶ A pension's fund needs a number of 50.000 members from the category of persons that are insured and aged over 35 years, which have to contribute to the pension fund. The contribution to the pension's fund is part of the individual contribution to social insurances owed to the public pensions system. The calculation basis, the withholding system and the payment time-frames were the same as in the case of the contribution to social insurances.

Law no. 249/2004 regarding occupational pensions³⁷ establishes the principles for setting-up optional schemes for occupational pensions and occupational pension's funds; the principles that found the way in which administrators of such funds are organized and function, as well as the coordination of the activities carried out by other entities involved in this field; the regulation and prudential supervising of the occupational pensions system. The right to propose an optional occupational pension scheme belongs to: the employer and the union or, depending on the case, the representatives of the employees through the collective labor contract at the level of the unit, group of units or branch; to the employer by itself or by association with other employers if a collective labor contract lacks or/and the union law³⁸. It is the obligation of the employer to withhold and transfer the contributions of the employees that are participants to an optional occupational pension scheme and lack of payments or incomplete payments trigger the criminal liability of the employer³⁹. Accession to an occupational pension scheme is optional. The contribution of the participant to the occupational pension scheme of up to 200 euro annually from its annual salary income is deductible from its gross salary.

At present, the organization of the public pension system is founded upon the provisions of Law no. 263/2010 regarding the unitary system of public pensions⁴⁰, with ulterior amendments. This law has abolished the provisions of Law no.19/2000

³⁴ Published in the Official Buletin no. 482 from July 18th, 2007.

³⁵ Published in the Official Buletin no. 600 from July 5th, 2004.

³⁶ Article 3 from Law no. 411/2004 concerning the private managed pension's funds.

³⁷Published in the Official Buletin no. 600 from July 5th, 2004.

³⁸Article 1 from Law no. 249/2004.

³⁹Article 5 from Law no. 249/2004.

⁴⁰Published in the Official Buletin No. 852 from December 20th, 2010.

regarding the public system of pensions and social insurances as well as the provisions of Law no.164/2001 regarding military state pensions as well as the provisions regarding the retirement age limits set for certain social-professional categories. According to the law, military personel in function, police officers, public servants with a special status from the system of prison administration, from the field of national defence, public order and national security are integrated into the unitary pensions' system⁴¹. Besides the teritorial social insurance funds, sectoral social insurance funds were set-up. According to the law in force, the standard retirement age is 63 for women and 65 for men. The minimum contribution period is 15 years for both women and men and the full contribution period is of 35 years. The value of the pension point is set through the provisions of the pension law.

From the social insurance budget, besides the pensions, the following types of benefits are set up: for professional diseases and work accidents, for the prevention of illness and for the recovery of the labor capacity, maternity indemnifications, indemnifications for raising and taking care of children, allowances for death. The indemnity for temporary labor incapacity is cofinanced from the social insurance budget by the employer. Social contributions cover social insurances, unemployment insurance and the health insurance, as well as the contribution to the state fund for disabled persons.

In order to increase the sustainability of the public pension system, certain types of benefits were transferred from the social insurance budget to the state budget, such as the indemnity for raising a child until the age of 2 or the age of 3, in case of children with disabilities, or to the health social insurance budget, such as the indemnity for temporary labor incapacity, maternity indemnification, indemnification for raising a sick child etc.

Law no. 263/2010 has gone through numerous amendment procedures, since it's entering into force up until present times. In 2017 the category of mandatory insured persons suffered amendments, and the conclusion of an insurance based on an insurance contract is accessible to any person that wished to benefit from an age limit pension or to supliment their insured income⁴². The amendments brought by G.E.O. 103/2017 are significant since it abolished those provisions concerning military personel, respectively sectoral insurance funds. At the same time, the legislation allows the so-called "pension cumulus".

The present social security system comprises not only social insurances but also social assistance. Social assistance is a component of social security and is

⁴¹ Soldiers and decorated volunteers that carry out their activity based on an individual labor contract; military personel in activity; soldiers and decorated volunteers; police officers, public servants with a special status from the prison administration system, from the field of national defence, public order and national safety.

⁴² GEO no. 103/2017 for the amendment of certain legislative act in the field of social insurance. Published in the Official Buletin no. 1010 from December 20th, 2017.

made up of the legal provisions that put into application social protection programs intended for families with children, certain categories of underaged persons, old persons that are retired and also not retired, adults with deficiencies and other categories of beneficiaries. Social assistance benefits are non-contributory. Social assistance programs⁴³ are aimed at persons that are in a state of social need and poverty. Through social assistance programs the following goals are pursued: improvement of work, life and living conditions of the population, the promotion, support of the actions and factors that determine social cohesion, the promotion and support of social solidarity. Therefore, legal provisions have been adopted that provided for the minimum guaranteed income for all citizens⁴⁴, insuring also the access to fundamental social rights⁴⁵ and measures for preventing and fighting social marginalization. The national social insurance system is based on the principles of solidarity and efficiency.

At present, one of the most stringent issues for all the social security systems, after the accession to the EU, is their coordination. EU regulations do not replace the national legislation of each state in the field of social security, but seeks to coordinate the national systems of social security in the context of free movement of persons. States have the liberty to decide what types of social insurance benefits they wish to provide, in what conditions, how to calculate the contributions and what type of contributions must be paid. European regulations establish merely the common rules and principles that must be complied with by all member states as well as the institutions that have competences in this field so that the persons that exercise their right to stay in different EU countries are not negatively affected. Therefore, persons that enjoy the status of workers cannot be disadvantaged compared with the natives of those states on the issue of accessing social insurance benefits⁴⁶.

In 2004, Regulation no. 883/2004⁴⁷ on the coordination of social security systems was adopted, establishing common provisions regarding the protection of social

⁴³ For the purpose of aiding those that are in need, help under the form of value coupons for house heating are granted and the limits set for the net income per each member of the family have been increased as well as the quota of these benefits in relation to the increase in the price of utilities. Emergency benefits are also granted in cases of state of need due to natural calamities, fires and accidents, financial aid for undergoing medical treatments and foreign surgical interventions; benefits for preventing and fighting against social marginalization; state allowances are paid to children; allocation for supporting the mono-parent family, for the protection of elderly, the protection of young people that leave the child protection system and the protection of roma population.

⁴⁴ Law no. 416/2001 regarding the guaranteed minimum income published in the Official Bulletin no. 401 from July 20th, 2001.

⁴⁵ Medical insurance, emergency aid, house heating benefit, social benefit paid to the spouses of those that carry out the mandatory military service and allowance for new born babies.

⁴⁶ ILO 2010 – The Coordination of Social Security Systems in the EU, p. 1.

⁴⁷ Published in the OJEU no. 166 from 30th of April 2004 and amended by Regulation (CE) no. 988/2009; Regulation (CE) no. 1244/2010 of the Commission, Regulation (CE) no. 1224/2012 of the Commission.

security rights in the situation of travelling in the EU, in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, and Regulation no. 987/2009 *laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation no. 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems*⁴⁸. Regulation no. 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems makes references to all the areas of social security: disease benefits, maternity and paternity benefits, pre-retirement benefits and invalidity pensions, survivor benefits and death allowances, unemployment allowances, family benefits, benefits for work accidents and professional diseases. The European regulations provide the principle of equality of treatment and non-discrimination, the principle of cumulating the periods for the nationals of the state where they are insured, the principle of exporting the contributions in all EU countries. Access to medical services is also provided, at the same cost as for the persons insured in that country, based on the European card for medical health services.

Conclusion

In conclusion, social security systems have had an evolution in close connection to the social-economic evolution of the society. As the society evolved, also the insurance and social assistance relations have evolved and adapted to the needs of the population or according to the social policy of the state, but also to the political interests of every particular period of time. In present, the social security system is in continuous adaptation to a continuous adapting social-economic context.

The aging of the population and the migration of young persons can have powerful effects upon the social security systems of states, that will have to adapt to a world undergoing a full globalization process.

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⁴⁸ Published in the OJEU no. 284 from 30th of October 2009, amended by Regulation (CE) no. 1244/2010 of the Commission, Regulation (CE) no. 465/2012 and Regulation (CE) no. 1224/2012 of the Commission.

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