

WORKING PAPERS

PLAGIARISM IN PH.D. THESES. A CASE STUDY OF MILITARY UNIVERSITIES IN ROMANIA

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Abstract: This article evaluates the plagiarism of the Ph.D. theses in military universities, where a high level of violation of academic ethics was discovered.

During the Communist system, Romania had a very restrictive regime of doctoral studies. The post-communist transition triggered a race to set up new doctoral schools while the number of doctoral students skyrocketed.

The Romanian military universities set up doctoral domains—unique in the world—such as Military Science, Public Order, and Intelligence, by extending the right to offer “scientific” degrees.

The Ph.D. titles in Military Science became very attractive for many social or professional categories such as politicians, civil servants, prosecutors, judges, police officers, servicemen. A Ph.D. in military or intelligence studies became a “wild card” to be promoted as general, secretary of state or minister.

We argue that the closed system of military universities allowed the development of a parallel doctoral system with the civilian one, with the support of the political class, but also of the civilian and military leadership of the security and defense structures.

We will hereby assess the level of plagiarism in military universities—for example, 14.63% of the Ph.D. theses from the National Intelligence Academy within the Romanian Intelligent Service are plagiarized—and its causes.

The latest rules of transparency and the new IT tools were factors that favored the investigation to prove that plagiarism in the military academies is a large scale phenomenon rather than a hazard discovery.

Key words: plagiarism, doctoral studies, military studies, plagiarism in Ph.D. theses, Romania, military universities

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