INTERNATIONALLY ACTIVE, VISIBLE, HIGH IMPACT, AND EMINENT ROMANIAN PSYCHOLOGISTS. A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract
Psychology was founded in Romania at the beginning of the XX century, by students of Wilhelm Wundt who graduated at Leipzig University (i.e., the first psychology laboratory in the world). Eduard Gruber introduced psychology in Iasi, Constantin Radulescu-Motru in Bucharest, and Florian Stefanescu-Goanga in Cluj-Napoca. From the very beginning, Romanian psychology was an active national and international player, completely integrated in the international psychology movement. However, starting with the rise of the communist regime (1945), Romanian psychology was less and less supported and eventually forbidden, both in universities (from 1977 to 1991) and research institutes (from 1982 to 1991). After the Anticomunist Revolution of 1989, psychology was reintroduced in Romanian academic and research settings (starting with 1991). However, due to almost 25 years of isolation from internationals standards, the newly started programs were generally based on outdated paradigms. In this article we identified active, visible, high impact, and eminent Romanian psychologists, based on key international criteria used in international university rankings and/or for academic promotion at world-class universities. Comparisons with international benchmarks are presented. Implications for educational and administrative decisions and policies are discussed.

Keywords: Romanian active, visible, high impact, and eminent psychologists, scientometric analyses.

Introduction
Psychology (i.e., academic departments and/or institutes/laboratories) was founded in Romania at the beginning of the XX century, by students of Wilhelm

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Wundt who graduated at Leipzig University (i.e., in the first psychology laboratory in the world). Eduard Gruber introduced psychology in Iasi, Constantin Radulescu-Motru in Bucharest, and Florian Stefanescu-Goanga in Cluj-Napoca (for more details see Bejat, 1972; David, 2001; 2001a; David & Miclea, 2002).

From the beginning, Romanian psychology was an active national and international player, completely integrated in the international movement in psychology. However, starting with the rise of the communist regime (1945), Romanian psychology was less and less supported and eventually forbidden both in universities (from 1977 to 1991 – psychology specialization/departments) and research institutes (from 1982 to 1991 – the institute of Romanian Academy). The view of the communist party was that communist activists rather than psychologists should be those who study the human mind and behavior, in order to create a new human being, the communist human being, based on communist principles about human values and behaviors.

After the Anticomunist Revolution of 1989, psychology was reintroduced in Romanian academic and research settings (starting with 1991). However, these new programs were typically started by the academic staff that was in power positions in 1977/1982. Therefore, due to almost 25 years of isolation from international standards, these programs were generally based on outdated paradigms. Indeed, the academic output consisted mainly on main author books published in Romania, often without peer review and payable by the authors; this led to an inflation of books/chapters, often of very low quality. This inflation was encouraged by the fact that each lecturer was required to have his/her own book on the subject of his/her course, and this was the main criterion for academic promotion and grant funding. Similarly, articles were published in local/national journals, often without rigorous peer-review analyses and with a limited circulation. This is not to say that there were no at all quality publications in this period, but these were difficult to identify and masked by tones of low quality publications. In such an environment academic/professional value was often eclipsed by notoriety and self-promotion obtained through holding academic power/decision positions, personal connections/networking, and mass-media self-promotion. The public and the students were often influenced by “who shouted the loudest” and “who had the academic power”, rather than by those who performed academically/professionally.

Building on the experimental tradition initiated by Florian Stefanescu-Goanga, a somehow different perspective was taken at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca. Starting with 1991, professor Ioan Radu, the Head of Department of Psychology, did not entrust the reconstruction of psychology only to academic staff that was in power positions in 1977/1982, but he brought in the Department a strong group of young psychologists (e.g., who graduated in/after 1977). These young psychologists were sent to study abroad and when they came back they were promoted in power/decision positions, implementing modern paradigms in psychology at the Babes-Bolyai University.
David, Domuta, and Moore (2002) presented the first comprehensive scientometric appraisal of Romanian psychology on the international scene after about a decade of psychology in a democratic regime (using Web of Science publications for analysis). A few years later, Iliescu, Ispas and Ilie (2007) also critically evaluated the development of Romanian psychology. In general it was clear from these analyses that a rigorous assimilation of international standards is taking place in Romanian psychology, mainly in Cluj-Napoca, at Babes-Bolyai University. In the other Romanian academic centers the development of the modern paradigm in psychology was still somehow slower.

A paradigmatic change – integrating Romanian psychology with international psychology – was forcefully advocated by professor Daniel David at the national level, starting with 2005. In his national institutional positions (e.g., vice-president of the National Council for Research/CNCSIS/CNCS; vice-president of the National Board of Academic Promotion/CNATDCU for psychology), he managed to introduce international standards for academic promotion and funding in Romanian psychology, thus forcing a paradigmatic change by a top-down strategy.

**Overview of the present study**

In a recent study looking at eminent psychologists, published in *Archives of Scientific Psychology*, Diener, Oishi, and Park (2015) found that: (1) scientific eminence in psychology is not based only on a few very important publications, but genius/eminence is based on/associated with immense productivity; (2) high-prestige psychology departments – 10% of all doctoral programs in USA – contributed to the doctoral education of about 50% of the eminent psychologists; (3) scientific eminence was rarely achieved before age 50; (4) most of the eminent psychologists worked until late in their lives; (5) there is a gender bias favoring males over females; (6) the areas with higher numbers of eminent psychologists are social psychology (16%), biological psychology (11%), and developmental psychology (10%), areas which also roughly correspond to the fields where there are journals with the highest impact factors and number of citations; and (7) the majority of eminent psychologists worked in top research universities and almost none worked in colleges (4-year undergraduate program without a strong research arm).

Now, after a quarter of a century of psychology in democratic Romania, it is time to analyze again our academic outputs, focused not only on academic units – as David et al., 2002 did –, but, following international models, on the performance of individual psychologists as well. Moreover, we are particularly interested in seeing how the current generation of active psychologists is positioned in relation to the best international practices in the field, especially after the assimilation of the new international criteria in the organization of Romanian psychology, following the reform initiated after 2005.
Analyzing the performance of individual psychologists serves both educational and administrative goals. From an administrative point of view, prestigious psychologists should be supported by their universities and be selected for local and national decisions boards (see also Diener et al., 2014). Indeed, taking into account the need of Romanian universities to improve their position in international rankings and the academic reform process at national level, distinguishing between eminent psychologists (well-known by their academic qualities) and notoriety psychologists (well-known by self and/or media promotion, despite a weak academic/professional background) is fundamental. From an educational point of view, students are helped to (see also Diener et al., 2014): (1) recognize true academic value and distinguish it from pseudo-eminence (e.g., based on notoriety); (2) find out which psychologists had a serious impact on the profession and the type of impact they had; and (3) follow role models and/or choose their mentors for a career in psychology. Finally, this information can be helpful for international colleagues who want to start academic collaborations with Romanian colleagues.

We focus our analyses on psychologists hired full time in psychology departments of Romanian universities. It might be that there are also highly productive Romanian psychologists hired abroad and/or non-psychologist hired in Romanian psychological departments. However, in this analysis we focus on Romanian psychologists working in psychological departments in Romanian universities.

The outcome is mainly based on the Web of Science Core Collection, including the following indexes: (1) Science Citation Index Expanded – 1900-present; (2) Social Science Citation Index – 1956-present; and (3) Art & Humanities Citation Index – 1975-present. We included the following Web of Science items (1) articles; (2) reviews; and (3) proceeding papers. We choose this indicator and these items because (1) it is the main indicator used in most of the international rankings of world universities (e.g., ARWU, URAP, THE) and (2) it was used in similar analyses conducted in the USA, therefore allowing us to make benchmarks-based comparisons (see Diener et al., 2014). It is important not to make a confusion between proceeding papers and conference proceedings. While the first type of items refers to articles published in a Web of Science indexed journal that were also presented before at a conference, the second type of items refers to papers only presented at conferences indexed by Web of Science; the second type of item is not an indicator to count in university rankings and/or in academic promotions at international levels, because it is just a preliminary and an intermediate, not a final, research output (the same is true for other document types such as meeting abstracts, etc.).

Although we first looked at the number of publications, we also took into account the number of citations and the Hirsch index (h) (see also Diener et al., 2014). The number of citations is a key indicator in various university rankings; the core component of it is related to the number of citations without self-
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citations, reflecting the impact of the work on the work of other academic groups. The Hirsch index is a combination of the number of citations and the number of publications. Technically, a scientist has an index \( h \) if \( h \) of published papers \( (N) \) have at least \( h \) citations each, and the other published papers \( (N - h) \) have no more than \( h \) citations each.

Taking into account that typically a minimum of 10 representative publications – as a starting point - is required for a grant application (i.e., advanced) by the European Research Council/ERC, we will take this as a minimal threshold for including individual Romanian psychologist into this analysis (i.e., an internationally visible Romanian psychologist). The ERC asks for key publications as main authors and therefore, this criterion is an important one to identify scientific eminence. Indeed, the main author is the author of conception (e.g., first and/or corresponding author in psychology), and research environments are built around such personalities.

Method

We analyzed the activity of all active Romanian psychologists hired full time (main position) in psychological departments of Romanian universities, based on the Web of Science Core Collection (i.e., document type: article, review, proceeding paper), up to up to 11.11.2014. We identified them from the websites of psychology departments and where the information was not up to date, we checked it with the heads of departments. To be considered a psychologist, one has to have either an undergraduate degree and/or a doctoral degree in psychology. The age and the areas of interest of the psychologists who made it in our lists were collected directly from them.

The international activity (i.e., highly internationally active Romanian psychologists) is defined as having at least 10 publications indexed in Web of Science.

The visibility at the international level (i.e., highly internationally visible Romanian psychologist) is defined by (1) having at least 10 publications indexed in Web of Science and (2) having a consistent academic output as main author (i.e., a minim average of 1 such article at every three years of academic career, as in most Romanian universities there is a general evaluation at every three years).

The impact at the international level (i.e., high international impact) is defined by a combination between number of publications, main author status, and citations, more precisely by (1) having at least 10 publications indexed in Web of Science; (2) having a consistent academic output as main author (i.e., an average of at least 1 such article at every three years of academic career, as in most Romanian universities there is a general evaluation at every three years); and (3) having a Hirsch index of at least 7; this is based on the finding that 10 years after graduation (doctoral studies) the average Hirsch index in USA

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psychology is about 6.68 (in social psychology/personality – a field with one of the highest Hirsch indexes in psychology) (see Haslam & Laham, 2009).

Scientific eminence (i.e., eminent Romanian psychologists) is defined by Diener et al. (2014) as:

The idea reflects the degree of recognition, impact, and respect an individual has in the field. Although it correlates with “importance”, this latter idea can probably best be judged only after a period of many years to gauge the long-term influence the scientist has exerted on the field (pg. 21).

Thus, typically, scientific eminence is operationalized by citations and awards (see also Diener et al., 2014; Haggbloom et al., 2002). In terms of awards, we looked at the most prestigious one in Romania, namely the Romanian Academy Awards; additionally, we looked at International Representations (i.e., president, board member, and/or national representative in international organizations, director of international institutes).

Our lists/tops was established in steps, hierarchically, to reduce the impact of notoriety based on self-promotion, academic power positions (e.g., decision-makers in various academic boards), and personal connections that is still a plague in the Romanian psychological field. Indeed, in Romania it is possible to have a high number of citations based on personal collaborations, although the co-author never published an article of conception him/herself. Similarly, it is possible to get various awards based on personal connections, rather than of scientific activity. Therefore, we start by identifying academics who are internationally active, out of them we select those who have international visibility, we further select those who have international impact, and finally, out of those we select those who are academically eminent. This way we can separate real academic value from top-down established value (e.g., by political administrators and/or personal connections) and/or from notoriety (e.g., self-promotion).

Results

Table 1 presents the activity of all active Romanian psychologists hired full time (main position) in psychological departments of Romanian universities, based on Web of Science Core Collection (i.e., document type: article, review, proceeding paper), having at least 10 publications indexed in Web of Science (i.e., the List of Highly Internationally Active Romanian Psychologists).

Table 2 presents the List of High Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists.

Table 3 presents the List of High Impact Romanian Psychologists at International Level.
Articles Section

Table 1. The List of highly internationally active Romanian psychologists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name and Affiliation</th>
<th>No. of publications</th>
<th>Total citations</th>
<th>Citations without self-citations</th>
<th>Hirsch Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Daniel David - BBU</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Curseu Petre Lucian - BBU</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Andrei Miu - BBU</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mircea Miclea - BBU</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Dobrea/Domuta Anca - BBU</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Szentagotai Aurora - BBU</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Baban Adriana - BBU</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Benga Oana - BBU</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Iliescu Dragos - BU</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Visu-Petra Laura - BBU</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Sucala Madalina - BBU</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Gavita/David Oana - BBU</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Sava Florin Alin - WUT</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Cristea Ioana - BBU</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: Each psychologist on the list has at least 10 Web of Science publications. The Ranking is based on the number of publications; where the number of publications is identical, we took into account the total number of citations (up to 11.11.2014). BBU – Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca; BU – Bucharest University; WUT – West University of Timisoara. Although Dr. Curseu is affiliated in the present to the Babeş-Bolyai University, the majority of his publications is not related to BBU.

Table 2. The List of highly internationally visible Romanian psychologists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Area/Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Daniel David</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>Clinical/Cognitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Curseu Petru Lucian</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>Social/Personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Andree Miu</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>Cognitive/Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Szentagotai Aurora</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>Clinical/Cognitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Visu-Petra Laura</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>Cognitive/Developmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Sava Florin Alin</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>Social/Personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Iliescu Dragos</td>
<td>Bucharest University</td>
<td>Timisoara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Cristea Ioana</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai university</td>
<td>Clinical/Cognitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Sucala Madalina</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai university</td>
<td>Clinical/Cognitive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: Each psychologist on the list has at least 10 Web of Science publications and a consistent academic output as main author (i.e., an average of at least 1 article indexed Web of Science, at every three years of academic career) (up to 11.11.2014). Although Dr. Curseu is affiliated in the present to the Babeş-Bolyai University, the majority of his publications is not related to BBU.

Internationally active, visible, high impact, and eminent Romanian psychologists
Table 3. The List of high impact Romanian psychologists at international level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Hirsch Index</th>
<th>Area/Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Daniel David</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Clinical/Cognitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Curseu Petru Lucian</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Social/Personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Miu Andrei</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cognitive/Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Szentagotai Aurora</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Clinical/Cognitive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: Each psychologist from the list has at least 10 Web of Science publications, a consistent academic output as main author (i.e., an average of at least 1 article, indexed in Web of Science, at every three years of academic career), and a Hirsh index of at least 7 (up to 11.11.2014). Although Dr. Curseu is affiliated in the present to the Babes-Bolyai University, the majority of his publications is not related to BBU.

As concerning eminence in Romanian psychology, analyzing Table 3, the criteria would be satisfied by Dr. David. Indeed, based on the eminence criteria established in the methodology (see also Diener et al., 2014), Dr. David is the only of the high impact Romanian psychologists (see Table 3) who received the award of Romanian Academy (i.e., Constantin Radulescu-Motru Award) and he is the most cited Romanian psychologist from the country; additionally, he is the director for research at the Albert Ellis Institute, New York, USA, and a member of the Scientific Review Group of Social Sciences in the European Science Foundation.

Additional analyses

Academic output in psychology is also expressed in books/chapters. A search of WorldCat indicates that all of the Highly Internationally Active Romanian Psychologists are also well represented by chapters/books, (1) already indexed in hundreds or thousands of libraries around the world and/or (2) in press at prestigious publishers (e.g., Springer, Wiley).

Four of the Highly Internationally Active Romanian Psychologists have key positions at international level. Thus, Daniel David is director for research at the prestigious Albert Ellis Institute, New York, USA, adjunct professor at Icahn School of Medicine, New York, USA and a member of the Scientific Review Group for Social Sciences at the European Science Foundation. Curseu Petru Lucian is an associate professor at Tilburg University. Adriana Baban is former president of the European Health Psychology Society. Dragos Iliescu is the elected president of the International Test Commission.

Four of the Highly Internationally Active Romanian Psychologists (Daniel David, Mircea Miclea, Andrei Miu and Aurora Szentagotai) were awarded the “Bologna Professor Award” by the national students’ organization for their teaching abilities and all of them have received top evaluation from...
All Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists have been principal investigators of national and/or international grants. Moreover, eight (8) of all Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists are certified as psychological service providers by the Romanian Board of Psychologists.

These additional analyses confirm the fact that Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists have a complex profile, which goes beyond research competitiveness, also involving teaching, administrative, and/or professional services abilities.

Among Romanian psychologists who are not hired in psychology departments, but in other academic units in Romania, we could not identify any active person who could be included in the List of High Impact Romanian Psychologists at International Level.

There is a large number of young psychologists, working in different academic centers (e.g., Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara, Iasi, Oradea, and Bucharest), at the beginning or middle stage of their career, who publish internationally as a current practice, although they do not yet have minimum number of 10 Web of Science publications (up to 11.11.2014). They will make it in the List of Highly Internationally Active Romanian Psychologists and the List of Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists very soon.

Conclusions and Discussion

Romanian psychology is somehow on safe grounds. The middle and the young generation of psychologists are already connected to the international standards in the field and/or they are on the right track. Indeed, in Table 2 (i.e., the List of High Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists) the oldest psychologist is 42 year old, the average age being 35. However, the fact that there are hundreds of academic psychologists who do not even make in the List of Highly Internationally Active Romanian Psychologists (see Table 1), meaning that they do not have a minimum of 10 Web of Science publications, and/or are not on this track, is a reason for concern that the old paradigm might still be preserved in many academic locations in Romania. Indeed, the National Board for Academic Promotion/CNATDCU has recently (2012) changed promotion criteria, so that research and international components were drastically reduced. However, despite these attempts of counter-reform (i.e., a resurrection of the outdated paradigm), the new generations of psychologists have understood and have regained the pride of psychology as it was founded by our forefathers, and, on medium and long-term, there is no turn back. Also, it is a good sign that two psychologists in the List of Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists are not from Babes-Bolyai University and, therefore, they can
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promote a healthy development of psychology in their organizations (i.e., one of them, SFA, is head of department at West University of Timisoara/WUT).

If one compares our results with those of Diener et al., 2014, one can notice that the eminent Romanian psychologist would not make into the list of 100 Extremely Eminent Psychologists in USA, neither by the number of citations, nor by the Hirsch index. However, while in 10 years after graduation (doctoral studies) the average Hirsch index in USA psychology is about 6.68 (in social psychology/personality) (see Haslam & Laham, 2009), in 14 years after graduation the eminent Romanian psychologist has a Hirsch index of 14 in a field (i.e., clinical/cognitive) where journal impact factors are somehow lower than in social psychology/personality. Indeed, van der Horst (2010), showed that the average impact factor of psychology journals slightly varies among psychology areas:

1. neuropsychology/neuroscience: mean = 8.74;
2. experimental/cognitive/developmental psychology: mean = 7.47 for sensations/perception; mean = 7.26 for cognitions; and mean = 5.22 for learning;
3. social psychology/personality: mean = 6.03;
4. clinical psychology/psychotherapy: mean = 3.79; and
5. work/organizational psychology: mean = 2.97.

These above mentioned areas are also representative for all Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists (see Table 2), although the clinical field is somewhat more visible in Romania, despite the fact that the mean journal impact factor is lower than in the neuropsychology/neuroscience, experimental/cognitive/developmental, social psychology/personality fields. This is consistent with the fact that the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy at Babes-Bolyai University is ranked first (among all psychology departments in Romania) regarding the number of Web of Science publications, based on the active academic staff. Indeed, the Department had the main contribution in the leading position of the psychology program at Babes-Bolyai University (that also includes the Department of Psychology and the Department of Applied Psychology) in the national ranking of the Ministry of Education and Research (in 2011). Moreover, 5 of the 10 Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists are members of the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy at Babes-Bolyai University, one of them (SFA) was a postdoctoral fellow of the Department, and one (ID) received his habilitation (i.e., the right to supervise doctoral students) in the Department; thus, 7 of the 10 Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists are members and/or alumni of the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy. Moreover, the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy has conditioned academic promotion by international publications, requires each doctoral student to publish at least one international publication before defending his/her dissertation, and has created a competitive research environment (e.g., the International Institute for the Advanced Study of Psychotherapy and Applied Psychology Section
Mental Health – http://www.psychotherapy.ro – is the only psychological research platform in Romania included in the MERIL Database of the European Science Foundation. All these policies have positive consequences on academic performance at national and international levels.

Compared to Diener et al. (2014)’s results, our List of Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists is much better gender balanced. However, we confirmed their findings that Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists tend to graduate from top Romanian universities and work in these universities. Diener et al. (2014) found that, although eminent psychologists were spread over various areas/fields in psychology, most of them were in social psychology (16%), biological psychology (11%), and developmental psychology (10%). Clinical psychology had about 8% of eminent psychologists, similar to the sensation/perception field. Our lists are dominated by the clinical psychology field for the reasons presented above (i.e., the activity and policies of the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy).

Finally, if one examines Table 1 - Highly Internationally Active Romanian Psychologists - one notices that the list also contains psychologists from the senior generation. Even if they did not make it into the list of Highly Internationally Visible Romanian Psychologists, it is important that, in general, they assumed the role of mentoring new generations of psychologists, following best practices in the field. Most of their international publications are co-authored with their doctoral students, which shows that they encourage the new generation of psychologists to target the best practices at the international level.

Summarizing, taking into account that the middle and the young generation of psychologists are already connected to the international standards in the field, Romanian psychology is somehow on safe grounds on medium and long-term. However, an astonishing large majority of Romanian psychologists does not make it into the List of Highly Internationally Active Romanian Psychologists (see Table 1), meaning that they do not have a minimum of 10 Web of Science publications, and/or are not even on this track. This is a cause for serious concern and a sign that the old paradigm might still fight back. Therefore, attention should be paid to these tendencies and policy and decision makers should promote international standards in Romanian psychology and the wide generalization of the best national and international practices in the academic system (i.e., success models/stories). Indeed, the model of the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy proved that modern academic policies could change the academic profile of a group within a generation.

The limitations of this study are minimal. All the results are transparent and can be checked on Web of Science and the general methodological framework was based on Diener et al. (2014) study’s on American psychologists. Small errors could have appeared due to the Web of Science data registration and/or to our searching strategy (i.e., the format of the name of the author), but we made efforts to avoid them (e.g., checking the data with the CVs of the authors.

Internationally active, visible, high impact, and eminent Romanian psychologists
and/or the head of departments) and thus, they could not have affected the conclusions (and/or the rankings) in a strong meaningful manner.

REFERENCES


