



PROGRAMUL DE COOPERARE ELVEȚIANO-ROMÂN  
SWISS-ROMANIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME

## A comparative perspective on precarious prosperity and household strategies in Romania and Switzerland in times of economic strain

**Starting Date** 01 03 2013  
**Duration** 36 Months  
**Discipline** SOCIOLOGY



### Main Goals

1. Define, identify and characterize the population in precarious prosperity characterized by insecurity of living and working conditions through means of quantitative analysis of secondary data
2. Research household strategies dealing with "precarious prosperity" in the two countries by conducting a qualitative survey in Romania and Switzerland
3. Explore the policy implications of precarious prosperity

### Activities

Based on EU-SILC data (for Romania also on data of the European Quality of Life Survey), the quantitative part delineates the socio-economic position of population groups situated in between poverty and secure prosperity and assesses how individuals and households in "precarious prosperity" experienced the recent economic crisis. It monitors changes in objective and subjective indicators of quality of life in both countries. The qualitative part consists of in-depth interviews with households situated in "precarious prosperity". For Switzerland, 50 persons (out of 74 persons already interviewed in 2008 and 2009) in three cities are interviewed for a third time in 2013. For Romania 50 persons in two towns/communities are interviewed in two consecutive waves.

### Expected results

The project will enable refining the linkages between agency (the ability to act autonomously) and structure by examining the strategies that households adopt in order to deal with various structural experiences (i.e. economic crisis, poverty, deprivation, welfare regime). It will further provide the opportunity to expand existing comparisons between Switzerland and other countries in order to reveal similarities and differences between East and West in the field of precarious prosperity. Finally, our findings will provide valuable insights into the mechanisms through which social policies may specifically target this social category situated in-between poverty and secure prosperity often neglected by policy makers.

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