

GHEORGHE ONUȚ, SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH, TRITONIC PUBLISHING HOUSE, BUCHAREST, 2014, VOL. I, II, III

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In the last two decades, the book of the authors S. Chelcea, Ioan Mărginean and Ion Cauc, called *Sociological research. Methods and techniques* (Destin Publishing House, 1998), that of Ioan Mărginean, *The projection of the sociological research* (Polirom Publishing House, 2000) and that of Septimiu Chelcea, *The methodology of sociological research. Quantitative and qualitative methods* (Editura Economică Publishing House, 2004, republished several times) constituted the main bibliographical support for the training of students and the specialists interested in accomplishing ample field researches.

Due to the fact that sociological research methods and techniques, which also imply a great professional experience, of field research, few have been the specialists who approached these specific studies, where there is rather difficult to make discoveries and apply new methods, to explore the social universe. The book of Gheorghe Onuț emerged after the extensive professional experiences of the author, and offers us another perspective, an original one, on the sociological methodology, being known that the author is permanently preoccupied with the innovatory spirit.

Before 1990, the book of Professor Henri H. Stahl, from the University of Bucharest, called *The theory and the practice of social investigations*, vol. I, II (Editura Științifică Publishing House, 1974, 1975), represented exclusively the source of reference, in the process of sociological methodology learning. It is interesting that almost all the works with this theme, mentioned above, were elaborated within the university didactic activities, constituting the work of some professors.

Gheorghe Onuț is a professor at Transilvania University from Brașov, and was initially noticed owing to his studies on professions, and, later on, through provocative books, such as *The machine of ideas. Creative techniques dictionary* (Fundația Pro Publishing House, 2005). The three volumes of his

latest published book – *Sociological research* (2014) – are the result of an experience of didactic university work of many decades, which offered the author the possibility to gather an immense informational background, especially due to the fact he lectured the course “Methods and techniques of sociological research”, for the students from the specialisation sociology, at the already mentioned university. Therefore, he also had the opportunity to verify it from the thematic and informational point of view, along with the impact on the students, and to use certain methods, during their practical training.

In the first volume, the author deals with the competences offered by the profession of a sociologist, together with the fields in which it can be applied; with the definition of the scientific method (which would legitimate the successful knowledge), and the circumstances of the objective truth, the theoretical fundamentals of the empirical sociological researches, and the management of the sociological knowledge production. The second volume, called “The methodology of the descriptive sociological research”, which is centred on the concept operationalization matter, and the characterisation of the sociological observation method – which benefits by the amplest and the best documented examination, from the Romanian sociological literature, so far. The second volume describes the sociological survey method, and the content analysis method, which, nonetheless, underlines the capacity of the author to profoundly characterise the specific methods, briefly presented in other specialised books, published previously by different authors.

The book of Professor Gheorghe Onuț, PhD, *Sociological research*, represents an indispensable instrument of study, with lots of actual information, which is needed, both by the sociologists, and the people who study social sciences, within the university environment.