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Covid-19 crisis in Romania - between perception and attitude

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Abstract. The 2019–2020 pandemic coronavirus, also known as Covid-19, debuted on December 12, 2019 in downtown Wuhan, China, when a group of people with pneumonia of unknown cause appeared, was mainly linked by the owners of stalls working on the Huanan fish market, who also sold live animals. The virus presents evidence of person-to-person transmission, and the transmission rate (infection rate) appears to have escalated by mid-January. As measures to prevent the spread of the virus, Romania has adapted a strategy to prevent and control this situation, such as: cancellation or closure of air flights, cancellation of residential meetings, closure of large stores, mandatory self - quarantine of infected persons. Thus, institutions and factories were closed, with the exception of the vital institutions, the closure of churches, educational institutions, universities, sports halls. Awareness campaigns have been launched through the media and social media, the use of disinfectant materials to clean the hands, the use of protective masks and medical gloves, the sanitizing of neighborhoods and roads with cleaning materials. The objective of the study was to determine the effects of the new Coronavirus (Covid-19) on the population, both in perception and in attitude. The sample consists of 244 persons and the data obtained after the application of the questionnaire were statistically processed, obtaining the following conclusions: most of the respondents consider that the information received about Covid-19 is correct, a smaller percentage believe that the news about the new Coronavirus is exaggerated; At the same time, the respondents assert that they will respect all the measures that the Government imposes on them: they will stay at home, they will go out only to buy the necessary products, they will wear masks, gloves, they will wash their hands often. Moreover, most respondents believe that both the country's economy and its personal economy will have to suffer greatly during this period of crisis.

Keywords. effects, perception, attitude, coronavirus, Covid-19, Romania, health, population

Introduction

The 2019–2020 coronavirus pandemic, also known as Covid-19, debuted on December 12, 2019 in downtown Wuhan, China, when a group of people with pneumonia of unknown cause appeared, was mainly linked by the owners of stalls working on the Huanan fish market, who also sold live animals. The virus presents evidence of person-to-person transmission, and the transmission rate (infection rate) appears to have escalated by mid-January (CNCB.com, 2020). The first cases of coronavirus in Romania were confirmed on February 26, 2020 (Stirileprotv.ro, 2020) and until April 7, 2020, 4417 people with the new

coronavirus were diagnosed in Romania, 197 people died, and 460 patients were cured (Worldometers.info, 2020). On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the coronavirus outbreak became a pandemic (Branswell, Joseph, 2020).

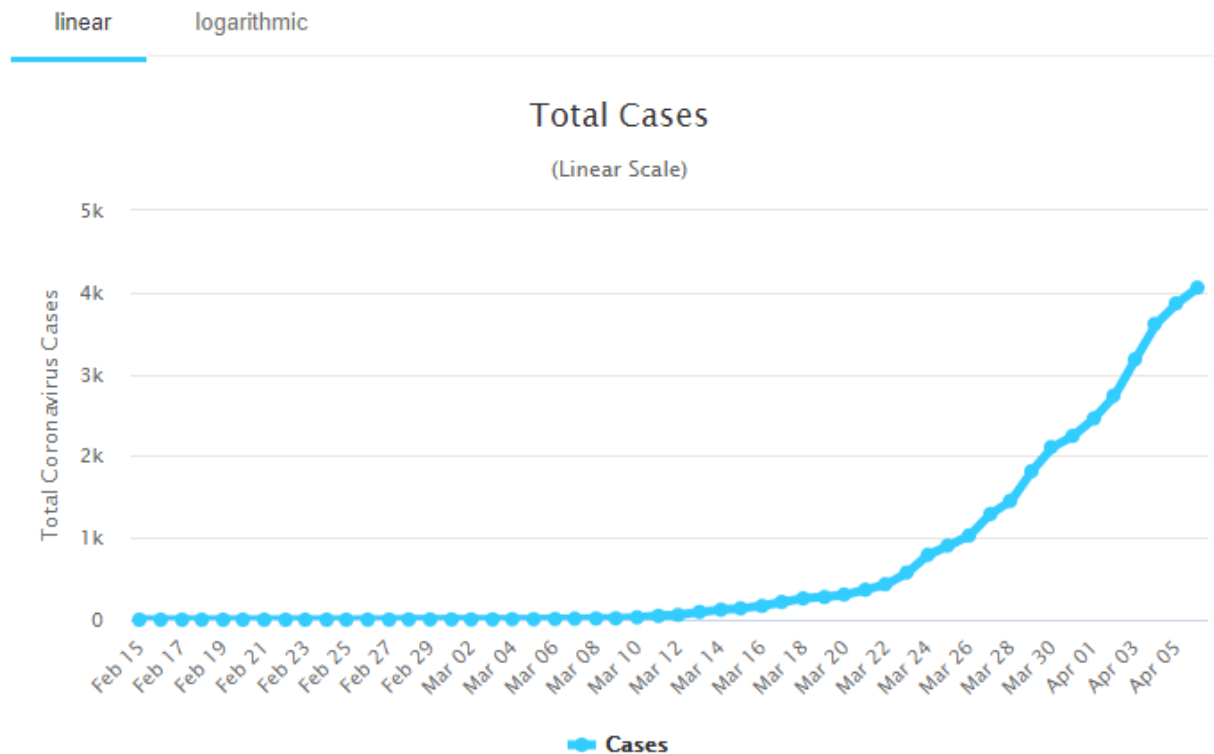


Figure 1 -Total Coronavirus Cases in Romania (Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/romania/>)

As measures to prevent the spread of the virus, Romania has adapted a strategy to prevent and control this situation, such as: cancellation or closure of air flights, cancellation of residential meetings, closure of large stores and mandatory self-quarantine of infected persons. Thus, institutions and factories were closed, with the exception of the vital institutions, the closure of churches, educational institutions, universities, sports halls. Awareness campaigns have been launched through the media and social media, the use of disinfectant materials to clean the hands, the use of protective masks and medical gloves, the sanitizing of neighborhoods and roads with cleaning materials.

The first measures taken by the Romanian authorities to combat the coronavirus pandemic were after the decree of the state of emergency, for a period of 30 days, by the President of Romania Klaus Iohannis, was announced on March 16, 2020 (Presidency.ro, 2020) and entered in force 2 days later. In article 2, the decree provides the following: “In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to achieve the management of the consequences, related to the evolution of the epidemiological situation, during the state of emergency the exercise of the following rights is restricted, in proportion to the degree of fulfilment of the criteria provided by art. 4 paragraph (4): a) free movement; b) the right to intimacy, family and private life; c) inviolability of the domicile; d) the right to education; e) freedom of assembly; f) the right of private property; g) the right to strike; h) economic freedom” (Presidency.ro, 2020).

On 18.03.2020, when Romania entered the state of emergency, the Military Ordinance no. 1 of 18.03.2020 regarding some first emergency measures regarding the congestion of persons and the cross-border movement of some goods (Monitorul Oficial al Romaniei, Partea I, nr. 219/18.03.2020). Among others, the first military ordinance stated the temporary suspension of the activity in the dental medicine offices, except for emergency dental interventions, the temporary suspension of the retail sale of the products and services, in the commercial centers where several economic retailers operate, except for the sale of food, veterinary or pharmaceutical products and cleaning services, the movement of persons outside the home / household to be carried out only in compliance with the general measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to avoid the formation of any group larger than 3 persons who do not live together while leaving the house without a valid reason the domicile between 10 pm and 6 am has been strictly prohibited.

On 21.03.2020, the Second Military Ordinance was published in the Official Monitor, which provides for COVID-19 dissemination measures. These include the closure of the malls and the ban on the entry into the territory of Romania of foreign citizens. Starting with 23.03.2020, the other rules have started to apply, including the restriction of the right to leave the house between 10 pm-6 am. According to the provisions of the ordinance, citizens are advised not to leave their home during the day except for essential supplies or for work-related reasons, in case they cannot work from home. At the same time, citizens are no longer allowed to walk in groups consisting of more than 3 persons, and at night, between 10 pm and 6 in the morning, they can leave the house only if they have completed a declaration on their own responsibility or if they can provide an official statement issued by their employer.

On 25.03.2020 it was announced the 3rd Military Ordinance, which stipulates that all Romanians who leave the house must have either a certificate from the workplace or a declaration on their own responsibility to state the reason of their movement. Thus, the certificate issued by the employer or the declaration on its own responsibility can also be presented by cell phone, tablet or similar electronic device.

29.03.2020 was the date of the announcement of the 4th Military Ordinance which stipulates that the elderly will be able to leave the house at any time if they do so in order to solve their medical problems. Also, prices for energy, gas, water and fuel are capped, and people who leave isolation at home or quarantine will be quarantined for another 14 days at their expense.

On 30.03.2020, the Military Ordinance no. 5 was issued, which suspends the flights to Italy and Spain for another 14 days, and those who do not comply with the quarantine will be criminally investigated, and those who do not respect the conditions of isolation will be forced to go into quarantine and will be fined.

Also on 30.03.2020 was the date of the publication of the 6th Military Ordinance which provides for the establishment of the quarantine measure on Suceava municipality, of some communes in the neighboring area, as well as of a protection zone on administrative-territorial units in Suceava county, the area in which most cases confirmed positive with Coronavirus and most deaths were reported.

On April 4, 2020, the Military Ordinance no. 7 had been announced, which stipulates that the drivers of freight trucks that have no symptoms will complete upon entering the country only a declaration on their own responsibility.

Research objectives

To carry out this study we started from the following objectives:

- The social perception of the phenomenon of Covid-19, of its spread and severity;

- Reporting the population to the existing situation: respecting the imposed prohibitions, attending public places including places of worship, avoiding social gatherings;
- the perception of the population on the quality of life during this period and the way in which it is affected;
- the attitude of the population in this situation: the purchase of food or other necessary products;
- the perception of the population about the effects of the pandemic on the education system.

Participants in the study

According to Figure 1, the number of men is (52) and is estimated at (21.3%) compared to women, their number was (192) with an estimated percentage (78.7%). This indicates a variation of the sample (Figure 1). The average age is 27.23 years, the median is 22 years, the minimum age is 17 years and the maximum age 73 years.

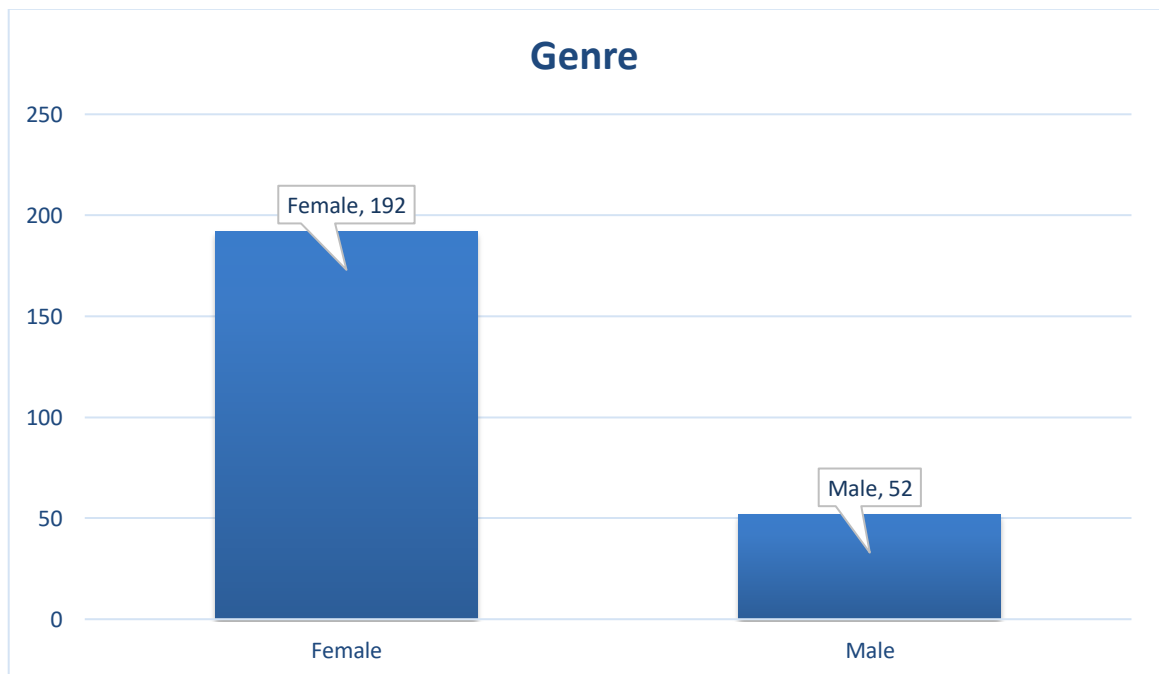


Figure 2 - Genre

Regarding the age, most of the study participants were between 15-25 years (65.75%), followed by the age category 26-35 years (16.80%) followed by the age category 36-45 years (10.66%), in the other age categories being much fewer participants. (Figure 2).

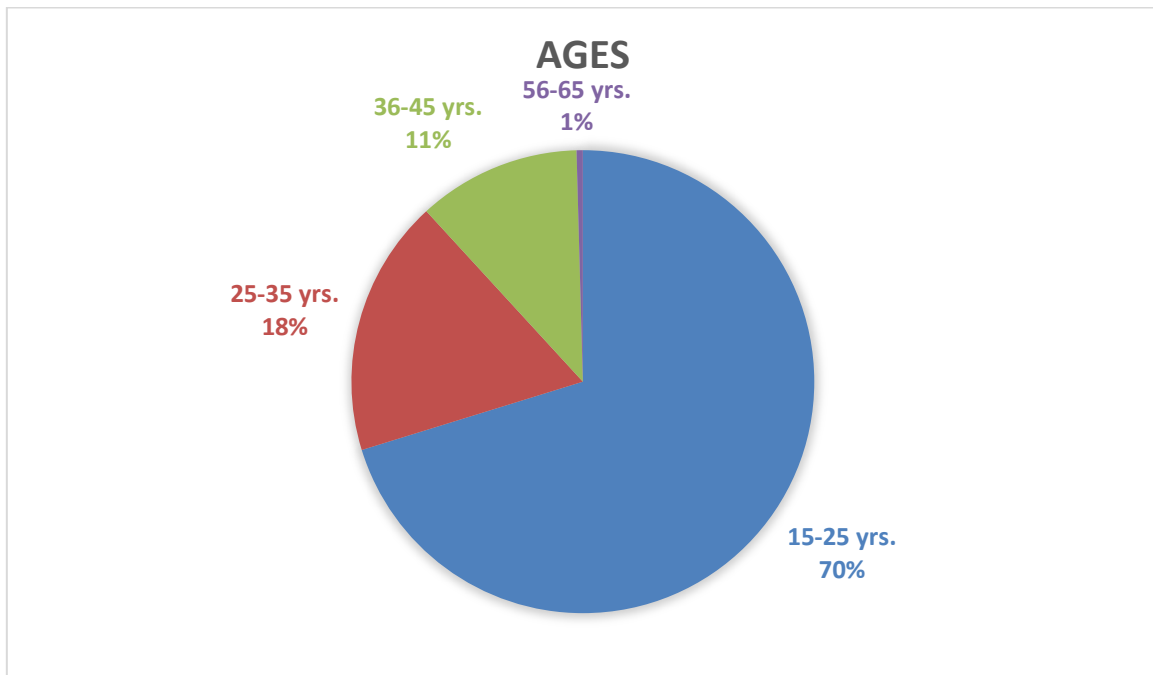


Figure 3 - Age categories

137 of the participants are students (current faculty) (56.1%), 34 people have graduated faculty (13.9%), 39 participants have a masters degree (15.6%), 30 of the participants have only high school (12.3%) and only 5 participants have doctoral studies (2%). (Figure 3).

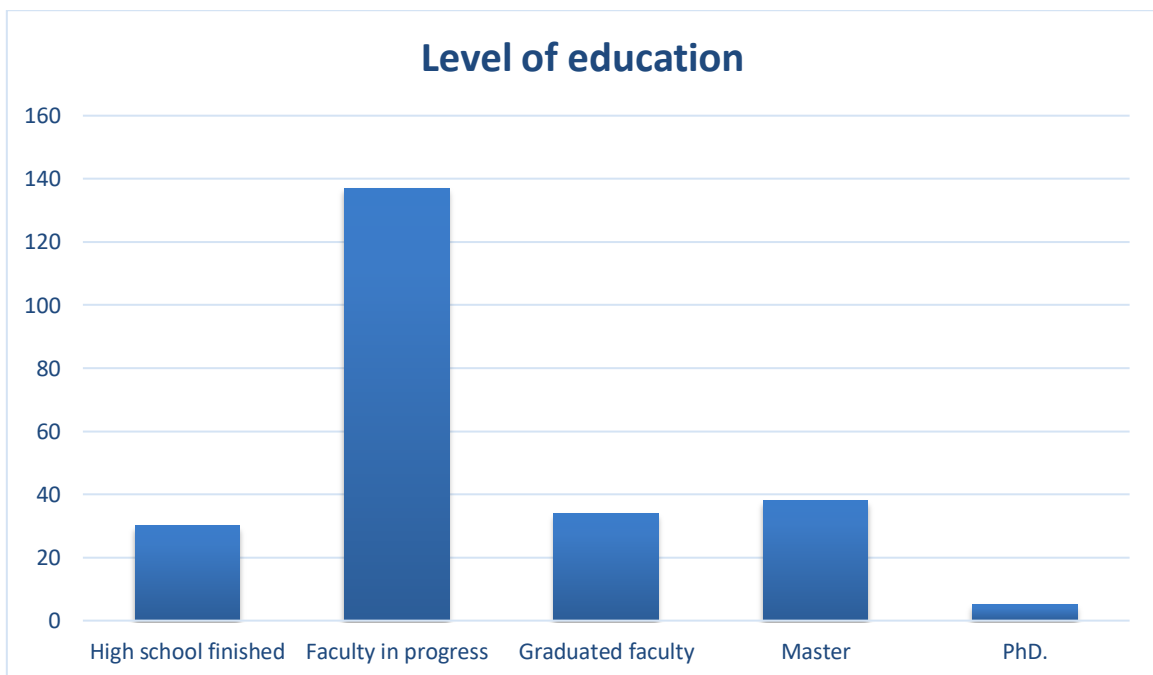


Figure 5 - Level of education

Also, 188 participants come from the urban area and 55 participants come from the rural area. Most of the study participants have a minimum wage per economy (76), followed by those who came between 1500-2500 lei (67), those who came between 2600-3500 lei (47), 33 participants have over 4500 lei and 21 participants have an income between 3600-4500 lei. (Figure 4).



Figure 4 - Monthly wage income

We mention that the unequal distribution of the study participants across the different categories presented is due to the fact that the instrument was administered through the online environment.

Research tools

To examine the effect of coronavirus on the population (both perception and attitude) we constructed a questionnaire that is composed of both closed and open questions. The questionnaire was applied during the period 22.03-26.03.2020. When assessing the validity of the issue, the assessments of a number of three experts considered that the instrument is properly constructed and that this questionnaire measures what it intends to measure. In order to verify the fidelity of the questionnaire, the coefficient of internal consistency Alpha Cronbach was calculated based on the scores obtained by subjects in the administered questionnaire, its value being 0.896 (N = 244).

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.896	2



		Percepti a- test	Percepti a-retest
Percepti on - test	Pearson Correlation	1	.898(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	244	244
Percepti on - retest	Pearson Correlation	.898(**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	244	244
** The correlation is significant for p<0.01 (2-tailed).			

The test-retest method was used to calculate the fidelity coefficient. The two administrations were performed at a two-week interval on a batch of 30 subjects. Thus, the value of the Pearson correlation coefficient, which is $r = 0.898$, $p = 0.000$, could be determined. Considering the data presented in the tables above we can say that the values of the coefficients come to strengthen the fidelity of the questionnaire.

Data analysis and processing

The data obtained were processed by individual analysis of each item, the occurrence frequencies.

Referring to what you hear on TV, in the print media, on the radio or on the Internet, in your opinion, the seriousness of the Covid-19 phenomenon is:

Considering that the COVID19 phenomenon has taken on a very large magnitude, the study participants consider that the severity of the phenomenon is correctly evaluated (52.87%) (Figure 5). We have analyzed the answers of the respondents regarding the gravity of the situation and most of them consider that “the situation is as real and serious as possible, but unfortunately there is also a lot of fake news circulating in the media, which many people take as being real, by not filtering them through their own filter and in this way it installs panic”.

At the same time, we list in the following other opinions of the respondents regarding this aspect:

- *"I think the information from the media is correct, and the measures taken by the authorities seem irresponsible to me, slow and ill-thought"*
- *"I am afraid that the situation will be much worse, comparable or worse than in Italy, that we will lose many lives until when a treatment or vaccine will be available"*
- *"Citizens are not aware of the seriousness of the situation we are in, although we have access to information on what is happening in the countries of Europe, where the epidemic started a month ago"*
- *"From my point of view, the media presents the gravity of the situation at the level where they are but people are not quite civilized and do not have enough of a good education to understand".*

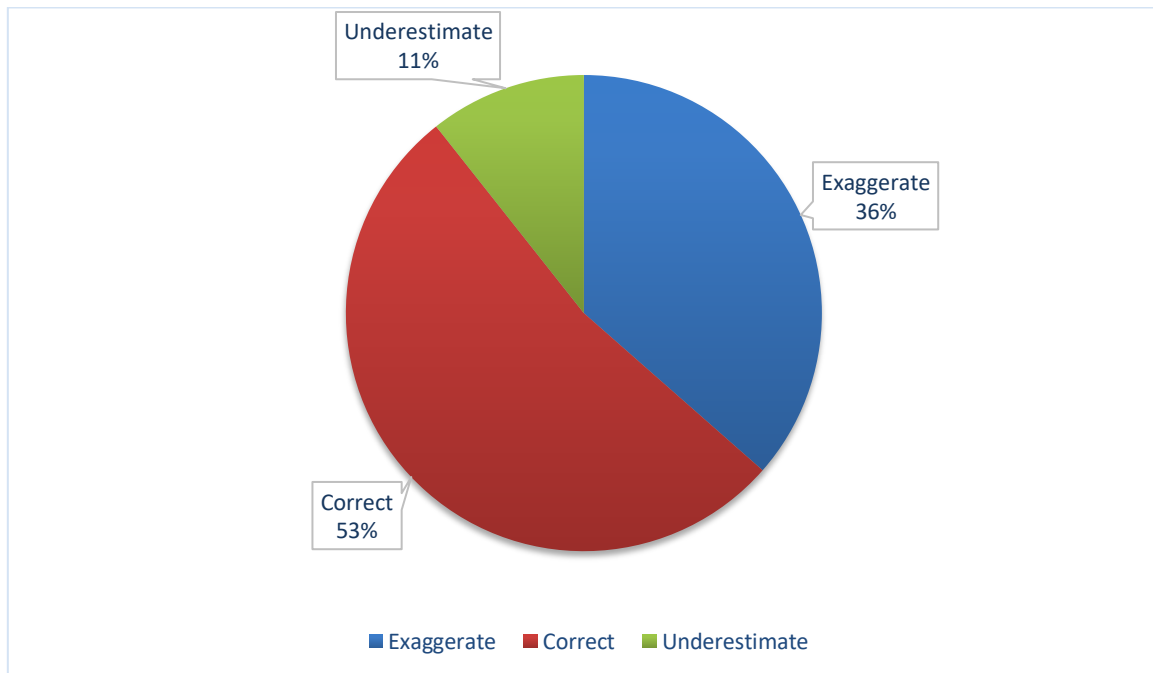


Figure 6 - Severity of the phenomenon

On the other hand, 36.48% of the respondents consider that the appreciation of the gravity of the phenomenon is exaggerated, these assessments being also argued by the comments of the respondents:

- *"In view of the fact that in February there have been registered in Romania several deaths caused by the flu, and so far no deaths caused by Covid-19 have been reported, the alarm seems to me exaggerated"*
- *"Today's Media places great emphasis on rating, which is obtained from the content it creates, the level of education of citizens being very poor, they compose exaggerated articles, to give them the subject of discussion"*
- *"I find it exaggerated only in Romania. Many of us do not know much about this virus, nor do I think there are as many infected people as they say (currently 433 respectively), now if you cough or sneeze, you are infected with COVID-19. It is an exaggeration ... compared to Italy or China, where yes, it is very serious and disastrous, in Romania it is just a lot of exaggeration"*
- *"Mass Media tends to dramatize the situation and cause panic for people who do not know or can not be informed from official, accredited sources, to obtain a high rating ... Deaths occur daily and due to other conditions, but now we are required to believe that the death occurred because of this virus"*
- *"I do not think we have been provided with real, clear information about the virus and its manifestations. In the first phase, it was described as an influenza virus, and at present, there are countries that treat it in this way. However, both the reactions and the measures seem exaggerated"*
- *"It's a contagious virus for sure, but I think the media does nothing but worsen the general state of panic among citizens. The online promotes countless fake-news that further alarms the whole society"*

- *"Abuses are masked by a crisis situation and deaths due to the virus will be reported regardless of the real cause of death"*
- *"Exaggerated in terms of symptoms, mortality rate, etc. Underestimated from the point of view of the spread and transmission of the virus ... There are not presented in the media relevant data regarding the causes of death of the covid-19 patients"*
- *"It is greatly exaggerated both on television and on social networks. It is true that this virus is very dangerous and spreads very quickly, but it is also very much remembered in order to scare the population"*
- *"To a large extent, the information presented is exaggerated, but I am aware of the seriousness of the situation. The exaggerations heard on TV create a state of insecurity and panic"*

Very few of the respondents considered that the severity of the phenomenon is underestimated (10.66%), this being due to the fact that the population does not realize the gravity and managed to expose themselves by not respecting the demands imposed by the State: *"... because people, unfortunately, they still do not realize the danger they are in and, until they are put in the current situation, they will not understand. We are irresponsible, we consider ourselves above the Law, and if we are sanctioned, we respond with "We didn't know"*.

In this period of crisis, will you attend mass events such as sports or concerts?

Making a correlation with the previous answers, it is stated that the population, even though sometimes the results of the situation are exaggerated by the media, nevertheless conforms to the restrictions imposed and is not exposed by attending mass events (most likely I will not participate - 183 women, 45 men, probably I will not participate - 6 women, 6 men) at least a few being the ones who are not aware of the seriousness of this situation (I will certainly partition regardless of consequences - 3 women and 1 man). (Table 1).

Table 1. In this period of crisis, will you attend mass events such as sports or concerts? * Genre Crosstabulation

		Genre		Total
		female	male	
In this period of crisis, will you attend mass events such as sports or concerts?	most likely I will not participate	183	45	228
	I probably won't participate	6	6	12
	I will definitely participate regardless of consequences	3	1	4
Total		192	52	244

In this period of crisis, until now, have you been in public spaces?

Although attendance at mass events, such as events or concerts, was very low, however, study participants said that so far they have gone to public spaces, most trips being to the supermarket (yes - 78 women and 28 men): *"In the supermarket for the purchase of food, malls, shops, mostly in parks", "I went shopping, walks in areas not very populated. I would*

say everyday places", "After food and materials necessary for personal living", "Most of the time in the supermarket", "I was in the supermarket, in the rest I tried to stay at home".

However, there were also people who moved to the public spaces, the displacement due to the job: "At work (the location being on a bank). In the hypermarket", "In the mall because I work there", "Supermarket, at work - Court", "In the mall because I work there", "Pharmacies and medical offices, because the job required it" (Table 2).

Table 2. In this period of crisis, until now, have you gone into public spaces? * Genre Crosstabulation

		Genre		Total
		female	male	
In this period of crisis, until now, have you gone into public spaces?	Yes	78	28	106
	No	114	24	138
Total		192	52	244

But in the next period you will go?

And here we have made a correlation with the previous answers and, analyzing them, it is observed that many of them, aware of the severity of the virus, will avoid traveling in the next period (79.51%) and only 20.49% will leave the house to make the most important purchases for the crisis period (Figure 6): "after food and materials necessary for personal living", "at the supermarket we take the necessary ones", "To make the necessary shopping", "in shops or market to get everything I need in terms of food. In exceptional situations I could also go to the family doctor or pharmacy to provide medication for my family".

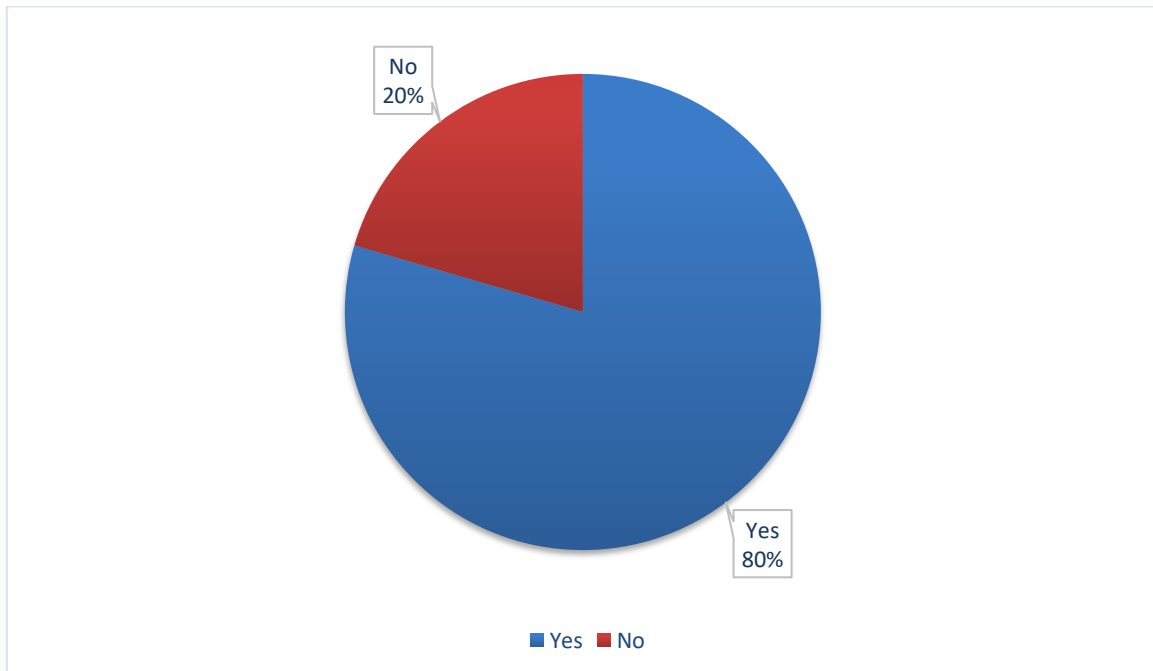


Figure 7 - In the next period will you go to public spaces?

In this period of crisis, have you avoided social gatherings?

Table 3. In this period of crisis, have you avoided social gatherings?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes. I did not receive and did not visit	170	69.7
	Yes. I didn't receive anyone at my house but I went to visit my friends	28	11.5
	Not. I went to visit my very close friends and received visits at home	46	18.9
	Total	244	100.0

Many respondents avoided social gatherings in the sense that they did not receive and did not visit or receive home visits (69.7%). 11.5% did not receive home visits, but they were on home visits with friends, and 18.9% did not take into account restrictions and were on visits with very close friends and also had home visits.

Did you attend churches during this period? As the Easter holidays are approaching, will you go to church?

Table 4. Did you attend churches during this period?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	14	5.7
	No	230	94.3
	Total	244	100.0

Although religion plays an important role in people's lives, however, respondents stated that they did not attend churches during this period (94.3%) and will not go to church either to attend the religious holidays of Easter (91, 8%). However, there were also respondents who stated that they went to the church (5.7%) and will continue to do so if allowed, including Easter (7.8%) (Table 5).

Table 5. As the Easter holidays are approaching, will you attend the church?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	19	7.8
	No	224	91.8
	NS	1	.4
	Total	244	100.0

How do you protect yourself during this period?

The answers of the subjects to this question varied greatly, starting from the awareness of the population not to leave home, to avoid crowding and public spaces to personal hygiene and disinfection, as well as to the space:

- *"I stay in the house as long as possible, I go out very rarely to buy the necessary stuff. When I go outside, I wear gloves and a mask, I try not to touch anyone or keep them as distant as possible, if they are at the supermarket "*
- *"I avoid the crowds and I became more exaggerated in terms of personal hygiene and I am careful not to touch my face, even when I have sanitised hands.*
- *"I personally avoid as much as possible the direct contact with other people or guests, as much as they can, because I live with their parents and they do not take into account these things"*
- *"I avoid leaving the house. I use the mask and disinfectant when leaving the house. I wash my hands with more responsibility. I disinfect the latches, the objects used outside the house (phone, wallet) "*
- *"I was isolated for a few days. Before I kept the disinfectant after me non-stop, I took great care of personal hygiene as usual "*
- *"I avoid contact with foreign people as much as possible. Foreign, for me, means any person who does not belong to my family. Also, I leave my home strictly when the situation calls for it, to purchase food and essential products.*
- *"I wash my hands as often as possible, I disinfect objects (like the phone), the clothes and bags which I go outside with, I keep them in a certain designated places in the house, I don't bring them to spaces like the bedroom or the kitchen."*

What supplies did you buy during this period?

A good rationing has been identified at the level of the investigated population, highlighting the way of thinking and reporting to their situation, the vast majority purchasing products only for the strictly necessary for maximum 2-3 days:

- *"I did not buy excessively, weekly shopping, I take into account the government's recommendations"*
- *"I could not buy chaotic, we all need food"*
- *"I did not buy flour, oil, yeast, etc. I can say that I did not even make supplies, I bought food (both fresh vegetables, canned goods, fruits, fish and chicken) that were missing from the house. I understand that the feeling of survival was activated during this period, but I do not think it is useful to buy plenty of foods and then just throw them away, and then those around me no longer have anything to eat. I stay home during this period and yet I am not afraid that I will die of hunger "*
- *"Normally, a normal shopping haul (fruits, vegetables, cereals, meat, milk, cheese)"*
- *"First of all, basic and less perishable things, canned goods, flour, corn, sugar, etc. But also some necessary and perishable things, such as fruits, vegetables, etc. "*
- *"Not very many, supplies that any family must have in the house regardless of the situation"*
- *"I take only the strict necessary for a maximum day or 2. Then I go out and buy again. In such situations we must remain calm, and if they buy without reasoning, unfortunately other people will run out of food and supplies. "*
- *"2 kg of: flour, corn, beans, rice. 3 bags of pasta, 3 bags of noodles, 6 120 g (small) pans, 2 jars of broth, 4 kg of oil, spices, 10 eggs, 2 packages of butter, 1 stick salami"*

500 g, mackerel. Foods with a longer shelf lifetime. Soap, disinfectants, masks, disposable gloves, personal feminine hygiene products, medication”

- "For one week, perishable foods and the rest of the food for several weeks / months. Hygiene products are for several months, as are disinfecting and cleaning products. I did not exaggerate, I proceeded as usual, we supply because we do not have a car and we buy for 6 months that do not expire quickly ”
- "We bought nonperishable food, enough for the number of people in our household, but without exaggerating. Besides food, we have taken care to purchase disinfectants for various surfaces and products for personal hygiene ”
- "I did not do the stupid thing to buy industrial quantities of food as other people, I buy daily or a few days strictly necessary”
- "Fresh and preserved vegetables and fruits (for about 2 weeks). Plain water (tap water is not ok for consumption). Meat (usual quantities for a week) and dairy”.

Does the Covid-19 phenomenon affect your quality of life?

Table 6. Does the Covid-19 phenomenon affect your quality of life?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid very much	108	44.3
a lot	86	35.2
little bit	43	17.6
very little	7	2.9
Total	244	100.0

As a complement to the previous questions, we find that, through the answers received, most of the respondents stated that their quality of life is affected (very much 108 / 44.3%, much 86 / 35.2%, little 43 / 17.6% and very little 7 / 2.9%). (Table 6)

Table 7. One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
Does the Covid-19 phenomenon affect your quality of life?	244	1.79	.832	.053

Table 8. One-Sample Test

Test Value = 0						
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper

Table 8. One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2- tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Does the Covid-19 phenomenon affect your quality of life?	33.612	243	.000	1.791	1.69	1.90

According to the table, the value of the t test is 33.612 at a significance threshold of .000. The standard alpha level is 0.05 and .000 obtained in the table is lower than 0.005 which shows that there is a significant difference between the average of our sample and the average of the population, that is, there are differences of perception on the quality of life affected by the Covid-19 phenomenon.

This is also evidenced by the relationships and arguments expressed in this regard by the study participants:

- *"I suffer from claustrophobia and the fact that I am locked up in a room and receive only negative information affects both my body and my mental health. The virus itself doesn't affect me, it affects me as some people take advantage of this situation. I do not understand why all the food and pharmaceutical products prices have increased significantly in the times when we have no jobs anymore "*
- *"This new virus, induced in our lives, affects us very much, because what until yesterday seemed fundamental, today seems a very distant history. The days outside, the departures without obligation to report this, the school, the faculty, the job, all these are affected by the crisis caused by the virus "*
- *"I believe that we are avoiding the virus, but we will be affected from other points of view. Sedentary life kills you. Lack of activity and boredom, too. On top of that, the continuous stress we are undergoing because we do not know what will happen, and the situation seems to get worse and worse"*
- *"I miss socializing. I live close to my parents and grandfather, but we haven't seen each other for almost 2 weeks, I do the shopping and they stay in the house. I receive technical unemployment payments from the government"*
- *"Every day, people live with fear and tend to buy more than they need, which is why I find it difficult to find what I need. My relatives work in countries affected by Coronavirus. I miss them so much and I am worried about what is happening to them"*
- *"It does not bother me that we have changed our working environment, but the interaction with people has become more difficult. Many of my close friends went into a state of panic, due to the news and comments found on social networks regarding the gravity of the situation; either they are very stressed, disappointed and angry because of the general panic created and they can no longer perform their activity in normal parameters, and in social interactions, all this emotional state becomes a barrier of harmonious relationship"*
- *"I am worried about the health of family members, I am afraid of mass sickness and many deaths! Restrictions stress me a lot even though I understand their need and respect them"*

- *"The panic of those around me, the fear of coming in contact, both myself and the family members, with an infected person (considering that I work in a public institution), caring for the elderly in the family (parents), the uncertain future social, economic, etc."*
- *"It is a little difficult for me to adapt to the new conditions, being used to a different style, frequent outings and meetings with friends, but I cannot say that I am affected. I manage to connect with friends through various social platforms, video conferencing, and so on. Instead, I have more time for myself, which makes me happy"*
- *"I can't go out, sometimes I feel suffocated by the air in the house. Sometimes there is too much noise to study and I can not just go out for a walk, as I did before. "*
- *"The quality of my life is adversely affected by isolation, lack of movement and socialization"*
- *"The children do not go to school and they are affected and worried. Like any parent for them we worry"*
- *"It gives me a feeling of anxiety, I feel that I am no longer my own arbiter of life and that I am controlled by others and I am forced to do or not to do things ... we want freedom !! Anyway we will get the virus"*
- *"My social life, extended family, cultural, social activities are disturbed. I had to change a lot of my habits. An online psychologist would have been helpful to me at this stage of my life"*
- *"Because it is not known who may be contaminated and we can get the virus through asymptomatic phenomena. I can't see my family. I have developed anxiety states staying for so long at home. I have insomnia, I always cry"*

If the Government would require a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for anyone exposed to coronavirus, would you respect this decision?

The question "If the Government would require a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for anyone exposed to coronavirus, would you respect this decision?" it also highlights the seriousness of the situation, the respondents say that it would accept a 14-day self-quarantine if it were in favor of controlling the spread of the virus and healing the population (233 / 95.5%) (Table 9).

Table 9. If the Government would require a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for anyone exposed to coronavirus, would you respect this decision?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	233	95.5
	No	11	4.5
	Total	244	100.0

What consequences do you think the Covid-19 pandemic may have on the pre-university and university education system?

From the point of view of education, the respondents consider that both the pre-university and the university will be affected. Thus at the pre-university level it is considered to be affected, firstly, the children of the 8th and 12th class, by postponing the important exams as well as the baccalaureate exam, as well as the children from the lower classes by the

fact that they loses contact with the school activity correlated with the insufficient depth of the educational subjects and low school results:

- *"Lack of courses, homework and explanations of each teacher about them"*
- *"Children will be disconnected from learning and it will be difficult for them to resume the whole routine"*
- *"Cancellation of class hours, possible cancellation of national exams and possible resumption of courses after summer vacation (depends on how much this state of emergency is prolonged)"*
- *"Delaying all important and implicit examinations of its normal course"*
- *"I think this pandemic is affecting the pre-university education system a lot, especially those in the 8th and 12th grade, considering that they are going to take the exams"*
- *"As far as the pre-university education system is concerned, only those endowed schools can offer an online education to supplement the education offered in the class, the rest do not think they will keep up"*
- *"The children will be disengaged and if no concrete measures are taken valid for all, understood and applied in the same way by all, this school year will be compromised especially for those who have to take national exams"*
- *"Freezing the school year"*
- *"The possibility of exam data (national testing, baccalaureate) is delayed and there is a chain reaction, including in relation to the university environment (admission to college)"*
- *"I think that the children from pre-university are organizing harder on their own, so they could not keep up with the lessons through the online courses. Thus, most likely they will remain behind with the lessons and later they will be overloaded in an attempt to recover the curriculum"*
- *"Pre-university education will be badly affected by the pandemic, especially in the final years, because the children will have many courses to recover and little time available for this"*

However, there are some counterarguments and consequences related to the support in the online environment of courses in the sense that they may occur: *"Unequal rights to learning, when online courses are recommended", "Even with online teaching, there will be many goals, lessons that would be good to teach again when things return to normal", "The situation can create difficulties especially for children from rural areas, who do not have the technical means necessary to connect to the Internet in order to participate at these courses".*

At the university level, the perception of the participants refers to the following changes:

- *"I do not know if it will affect very much, because I think that this will force some changes in the university system, such as its digitization, changing the examination mode, etc."*
- *"Whoever wants to learn in this period will do so regardless of the circumstances. We have to be responsible and realize that we are not on vacation"*
- *"For students in the final years, possible problems / delays of the license exam or admission to various institutions"*
- *"The university system is very likely to be less affected compared to the pre-university one, because the number of people participating in the courses is much smaller in the university environment. Students are generally active during exam sessions"*

- *"Maybe distance learning, online, would be a good thing. Both as a concrete way of not wasting time, but also as a way of concentrating on the lessons. Maybe the only big loss would be the social relationship, which is very important for the adult age "*
- *"The online courses are not compared to those face to face. Certainly, teachers will lie to themselves that everything is fine. In fact, they cannot make sure that at least a quarter of the people in the video conference understood what was explained. The results of the examinations will be tailor-made: the students will have huge gaps in the future, even if, hypothetically, they manage to learn the courses perfectly, mechanically and take a high score"*
- *"I would be subjective if I said that it would have no effect because in my faculty absolutely all the courses and seminars take place online, and the information reaches us in the same amount. But speaking to other students, they are faced with the ignorance and carelessness of teachers, who believe that only a few courses sent in word format can substitute for a teacher's explanations. I am afraid that many students will suffer because of this "*
- *"The consequences on the university education will not be felt as negative as in the pre-university one because all the courses take place in the online environment, offering the opportunity to participate in even more than normal, being much easier to access than the physical presence at courses "*
- *"There are students who, because of the faculty they attend and the lessons they study, manage to learn at home, which is why they are not necessarily affected by this pandemic. However, other faculties involve practice and laboratories that cannot be held during this period, which is why the students are lagging behind, being affected during the session "*
- *"Adaptation to the new situation is necessary, it makes us aware that we become actors in a constantly changing world, we must be prepared to act under the conditions of the present situation".*

In your opinion, how affected do you think the country's economy will be due to the Covid-19 pandemic?

The respondents consider that not only the education will be affected during this period, but also the economy of the country (very affected 202 / 82.8%, affected but not in a very large proportion 36 / 14.8%. Very few respondents answered that the economy the country will be affected very little or not at all (Table 10).

Table 10. In your opinion, how affected do you think the country's economy will be due to the Covid-19 pandemic? Please argue your answer

	Frequency	Percent
Valid very affected	202	82.8
affected, but not to a large extent	36	14.8
I don't think it will be affected much	5	2.0
it will certainly not be affected at all	1	.4

Total	244	100.0
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The frequency of responses for the "very affected" variant is reinforced by the respondents' statements:

- *"Many SMEs have been closed, shops, restaurants, etc., individuals work mostly at home. And some organizations take advantage of this situation by raising prices. However, this pandemic was useless because there were many donations to the State regarding the "rehabilitation" of hospitals.*
- *"Citizens do not produce during this period, but only consume. Being paid less, I do not perceive that they have the same expenses as from a full salary. Also stand in the house, the utility bills will increase in the next month, and they will find themselves unable to provide the family with the minimum necessary and to pay the bills without any of the two parties being affected.*
- *"It will be quite affected so it would be very good for the management to prepare for finding the best solutions to restore the economy and in this context it would be better to focus more on solutions, which involves supporting Romanian companies "*
- *"Romania's economy was underdeveloped anyway, the pandemic of CoVid-19 will only cause the country's economy to collapse, which will be felt for a long time"*
- *"There are few areas to be won or not affected by this pandemic. For most businesses there will be a stagnation period, during which they will not produce, or even have to lose. Thus, after this period, they will endeavor to recover the damages caused by the pandemic, being, still, a period without profit"*
- *"Taking into account that most businesses suspend their activity, they will not contribute to the economic environment for an indefinite period, so the economy will be in decline"*
- *"Most of our items and food do not come from Romania, besides we will not be able to take things from outside to sell them, the premises, the shops are closed and they will lose a lot of money, the people can not go out, the production will not grow anymore"*
- *"At economic level there will be significant changes. It must be understood that the economy of a state is a system with several components closely linked (interdependent). If a single economic branch, for example the tourism field, is affected, it affects all the others because it enters a vicious circle. People will no longer have the object of work, they will not have wages, they will not pay taxes, they will not be able to repay loans. It will enter into a crisis and I think we need to understand now more than ever that the role of the state in the economy must be strengthened! It is the state that has to play a much more important role than before in the economy, to have a much better legislative system developed regarding the relations that are formed between the players in the economy! We will understand that "invisible hand" is a utopia created and taught in economic doctrine to manipulate markets in favor of some, of the powerful ones"*
- *"People do not know how to react to such situations .. Each one is for him, they do not think about the good of others and for this reason it will be difficult to put ourselves on our feet again"*
- *"Supermarkets and pharmacies are still operating and will continue to operate. But the other elements that supported the economy: restaurants, malls, bars, clubs, etc., are currently closed. Summer is also approaching, slowly but surely, and for our county at least, summer means tourism. It will be affected if we continue with this*

pandemic until then, which I hope is not the case. I want to believe that people will mobilize, stay in the house and we will manage to get through this coronavirus as soon as possible”.

Conclusions

The Covid-19 crisis has spread rapidly all over the planet, and the governments of the affected countries have rapidly adopted measures to combat the phenomenon. From the citizens' perspective, most of them consider that the information presented in the media regarding the Covid-19 phenomenon is correctly presented, and a smaller percentage considers that the media presents the information in an exaggerated form.

Also, most of the study participants said that they will comply with the measures imposed by the Government, namely: they will not go to public spaces, they will not attend mass events such as sporting events or concerts and they will even respect a period of 14 days of mandatory self-quarantine if the Government imposes this, although at the beginning of the crisis in Romania, a significant percentage of them went to open public spaces such as pharmacies, shops, shopping centers or the workplace. With regard to social gatherings during the crisis, most avoided visiting someone else's house or welcoming guests to visit.

Considering this pandemic can be extended during the Easter holidays, most respondents stated that they will not actually participate in the Easter holiday and have not been to churches during this period. As a measure of protection, most respondents say they stay in the house as long as possible, they leave the house very rarely and then only to buy the necessary necessities, avoid crowds, wash several times a day tomorrow and systematically disinfect objects, and all this crisis affects their lives to a large extent, feeling increasingly anxious because of the information they receive from the media and from Social Media. At the same time, over 80% of the respondents believe that the country's economy will be severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic, especially because most companies will go bankrupt, and the population will be affected due to lack of jobs, the rise of the unemployment rate, they will have no money, and prices will rise.

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