

Dear Sir,

We received your complaint and we are sorry for the situation, but we believe that our intentions must have been misunderstood. Thus, we should point out that the references to the authors mentioned in our paper were made with a scientific purpose so that they inform and highlight some research concerns related to the subject in discussion. From this perspective, we believe that our action falls under the practice of "*fair use*" regarding the use of fragments from the works of other authors.

Furthermore, considering the definition of plagiarism - *the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing off as one's own*, (according to <http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/plagiarism>) we can apprise that, in our paper, when we referred to the works of the authors mentioned, we always used the personal pronoun *they* and never *we*.

Moreover, we believe that we acted not only in the public's interest of being properly informed, but also in the interest of the authors we quoted by bringing their scientific achievements into attention.

In addition, the references to the works of the authors mentioned were part of the literature review of our work in which we tried to render the exact and precise achievements of those authors as our goal was to emphasize the originality of our research method. That is why we thought it was absolutely necessary that we distinguish the originality of our method of analysis by presenting other relevant studies in the field as faithful as possible and not settling for an incorrect and incomplete presentation. Our resorting to the Italian scientific literature was justified because of the great similarities regarding the regional disparities in Italy and Romania. Nevertheless, in our paper, we framed a different method (original) to measure the regional distribution of inflationary pressures, given the lack of regional price indicators in the statistical databases in Romania.

We would also like to mention that the three works which we make reference to in our article are listed in the references section.

Nonetheless, we acknowledge our mistake of taking short fragments from the works of the authors mentioned without an appropriate use of the quotation marks, but with proper use of parentheses for bibliography and references. Furthermore, we admit that we did not ask for the authors' permission to quote their works as we believed that they would be pleased with us bringing the results of their research into the public attention. We pledge to contact the authors and ask for an apology.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to present our point of view on this complaint and we really appreciate that.

Therefore, please accept our apologies. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Dorel Ailenei, PhD

Amalia Cristescu, PhD