MATEI BEJENARU
Enlarged Clothing
Installation with oversized clothing and text on the wall
2005

In the year 2003, Romania was the leading European exporter of textiles to the EU market (in 2003: 3,832 billion Euro), and the world's 4th exporter, after China, Turkey and India.

Most of the textile and clothes production in Romania is based on "Lohn system", which takes advantage of the very low labor force costs and the communist industrial infrastructure.

Lohn products are sold on the EU market as brands of more or less known EU companies EU. These companies make a good profit by exporting their products to cheaper countries.

Lohn system created small and medium size textile factories which do not create a real progress because they don't have research/design, marketing/sales and supply/delivery departments. All these are the responsibilities of the Western company that organizes the distribution of the products.

In 2005, a Romanian worker from a "Lohn" company was paid 90-150 Euro/month, which is approx. one eighth the wage of a similar worker in the EU.

With the liberalization of the EU textile and clothing market, since January 1st 2005, and with the entry of Romania into the EU (in 2007), *Lohn production*, for profit reasons, will move to cheaper countries (like Moldova and Ukraine). This result will create major social problems in poor regions in Romania (like Moldova, where I come from). In some small mono-industrial cities of Moldova the textile-*Lohn* factories are the only profitable ones, through exploiting the very cheap local female labor force.

The "Clothes Enlargement" art project reflects Matei Bejenaru's study of how the global economy affected his remote region. According to the clothes enlargement algorithm, he produced oversized clothes in a Lohn textile company from Iasi, Romania. The clothes were the same as those produced to be exported.
The enlargement rate (**ΔX**) is a symbolical calculation which reflects the influence of the labour force cost on the price of the clothes.

$$\Delta X = P_{EU} / P_{ROM}$$

P_{ROM} represents the price of the product in Romania, using the Romanian labour force
P_{EU} represents the hypothetical price in Romania, if it used EU labor force

Structure of the price:
$P_{ROM} = P_{Raw\ materials} + P_{Utilities} + P_{Romanian\ taxes} + P_{Labor\ force}$ + Profit (Romanian company)
According to the discussions with some Romanian textile managers the ponderation of the costs is:
Profit (Romanian company) represents 30-40% from the price in Romania (P_{ROM})
$P_{Labour\ force}$ represents 20-40% from the price in Romania (P_{ROM})
$P_{Raw\ materials} + P_{Utilities} + P_{Romanian\ taxes}$ represents 20-40% from the price in Romania (P_{ROM})

In the calculation of the enlargement rate, I will use the fact that the price of the EU labour force is 8 times that of the Romanian workers.

$$\Delta X = P_{EU} / P_{ROM} = 2{,}4 – 3{,}33$$

Where:
$P_{EU} = P_{Raw\ materials} + P_{Utilities} + P_{Romanian\ taxes} + P_{EU\ labor\ force}$ **+ Profit (Romanian company)**

$P_{ROM} = P_{Raw\ materials} + P_{Utilities} + P_{Romanian\ taxes} + P_{ROM\ labor\ force}$ **+ Profit (Romanian company)**