

THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE MARKETING NEEDS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION OF THE ROMANIAN MARKETING COMPANIES - A MARKETING RESEARCH -

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Abstract

The marketing needs of the Romanian marketing companies are very diversified, commencing with the research of the needs and demand on the target market, going down to the 4Ps (Product, Price, Promotion and Placement) and their components.

The present marketing research was performed using 7 categories of information sources: specialised publications in marketing; specialised publications in economics; information provided by specialised institutions in consultancy and marketing research; information provided by individual marketing specialists; information provided by advertising agencies; information provided by the economic sections of the daily newspapers; job web sites.

Keywords: marketing needs, Romanian companies, secondary data

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Introduction

The Romanian marketing companies, especially those activating in consultancy, marketing research and promotion, have developed tremendously in nearly 20 years of open economy. These companies grew and diversified their businesses and, as a consequence, their marketing needs evolved continuously. In order to determine the current situation of the involvement of marketing, in general, and its specialised branches in the activity of the Romanian marketing companies we consider that a good starting point would be the assessment of the secondary data available on these topics. The novelty of our approach consists in the fact that we wanted to determine these needs

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through mining into the existent data obtained for other purposes while it is accustomed in theory and practice to conclude about needs through direct research.

In order to perform such a marketing research, the sources of information were grouped in 7 categories: specialised publications in marketing; specialised publications in economics; information provided by specialised institutions in consultancy and marketing research; information provided by individual marketing specialists; information provided by advertising agencies; information provided by the economic sections of the daily newspapers; job web sites. Out of these 7 categories, 290 relevant references were identified.

The present research was conducted in 2011, between January and April.

Literature review

The secondary data already exist. They were collected in research studies performed at a prior date. The secondary data are very useful, because they can provide useful insight on various matters. The conclusions drawn after analysing secondary data can be sufficient for the researcher. If they are not sufficient, they can represent a starting point for further research studies, such as a focus group, an in-depth interview or a survey.

Research methodology

1. Research purpose

The identification of the types of marketing needs and means of communication used by the Romanian marketing companies.

2. Research objectives

1. The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the marketing environment.

2. The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the determination of the buying and consumption behaviour on a particular market.

3. The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to their offers and their clients' ones.

4. The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the setup of their prices and their clients' ones.

5. The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the promotional options for their offers and their clients' ones.

6. The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the distribution possibilities for their offers and their clients' ones.

7. The identification of the communication means used by the Romanian marketing companies.

3. Research hypotheses

1. The Romanian marketing companies need information about the marketing environment related to:

- the features of the industry/market and tendencies on it
- acquisitions and diversification
- market share
- its employees

2. The Romanian marketing companies need information about the buying and consumption behaviour in relation to:

- brand preferences
- attitude toward a brand
- product satisfaction
- buying behaviour
- buying intentions
- brand awareness
- segmentation studies

3. The Romanian marketing companies need information for their offer and their clients' ones in one or more of the following categories:

- concept development and testing
- brand name generation and testing
- test market
- product testing
- package design
- competitors' products

4. The Romanian marketing companies need information regarding their prices and their clients' ones gathered from:

- cost analysis
- profit analysis
- price flexibility
- demand analysis: market potential; sales potential; sales forecasting
- competitors' price analysis

5. The Romanian marketing companies need information regarding their promotional options and their clients' ones obtained from:

- the research of the motives which determine the choice for a means of communication
- the research of the mass communication means
- the research of the advertising message
- the research of the advertising efficiency: before/after broadcasting
- the research of the competitors' advertisements
- the research of the public image
- the research of the sales force's compensation
- the research of the sales force's shares
- the research of the sales force's areas
- the research of promotional instruments such as prizes, coupons etc

6. The Romanian marketing companies need information for their distribution possibilities and their clients' ones obtained from:

- the research of the office/factory/warehouse location
- the research of the distribution channel's performance
- the research of the distribution channel's coverage
- the research of exports and international trade

7. The Romanian companies use a great variety of communication means, such as: newspapers, magazines, TV channels, radio, and online services.

4. Research variables

Variable	Definition	Directions for research
Marketing needs	The necessity to obtain the information which will help the organisation understand the environment and adapt accordingly to it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information about the marketing environment - information about the buying and consumption behaviour - information about the traded offer - information about the prices - information about the promotional options - information about the distribution possibilities

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information about the communication means
Marketing environment	The sum of forces which act in a direct or indirect manner upon the organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the features of the industry/market and tendencies on it - acquisitions and diversification - market share - employees
Buying and consumption behaviour	The sum of individual or group decisions directly connected to the acquiring and use of goods and services for the satisfaction of the current and future needs, including decision processes which precede and determine these acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - brand preferences - attitude towards a brand - product satisfaction - buying behaviour - buying intentions - brand awareness - segmentation studies
Offer	The product, service, idea or combination of these with which the organisation is present on the market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concept development and testing - brand name generation and testing - test market - product testing - package design - competitors' products
Price	The sum of money which must be paid by the buyer to the seller in order to acquire the offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cost analysis - profit analysis - price flexibility - demand analysis: market potential; sales potential; sales forecasting - competitors' price analysis

Means for promoting an offer	The ways in which the prospect is informed about the organisation's offer and persuaded to purchase it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the research of the motives which determine the choice for a means of communication - the research of the mass communication means - the research of the advertising message - the research of the advertising efficiency: before/after broadcasting - the research of the competitors' advertisements - the research of the public image - the research of the sales force's compensation - the research of the sales force's shares - the research of the sales force's areas - the research of promotional instruments such as prizes, coupons etc
Means for placing (distributing) an offer	The processes and routes through which an offer reaches a client	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the research of the office/factory/warehouse location - the research of the distribution channel's performance - the research of the distribution channel's coverage - the research of exports and international trade
Means of communication	The channel used by an organisation to communicate with its target	newspapers, magazines, TV channels, radio, online services.

5. Population

The researched population is represented by the Romanian marketing companies. Due to the fact that a broader coverage is desired, the data will be collected without any restrictions tied up to the type and size of these organisations.

6. Secondary data study guide

The study guide was designed in accordance with the research purpose and objectives. This guide was structured in the following chapters:

- business/economic or company research
- product research
- price research
- promotion research
- distribution research
- buying behaviour research
- communication means used by a company

For each section, the study guide had the following structure:

Business/economic or company research						
the features of the industry/market and tendencies on it	Studies about acquisitions and diversification	Studies about market share	Studies about employees	Other	Description	Source

Buying behaviour research								
Studies about brand preferences	Studies about attitude towards a brand	Studies about product satisfaction	Studies about buying behaviour	Studies about buying intentions	Studies about brand awareness	Segmentation studies	Other	Description
								Source

Product research							
Information about concept development and testing	Information about brand name generation and testing	Information about a test market	Information about product testing	Information about package design	Information about competitor's products	Other	Description
							Source

Price research							
Information about cost analysis							
Information about profit analysis							
Information about price flexibility							
Information about demand analysis; market potential; sales potential; sales forecasting							
Information about competitors' price analysis							
Other							
Description							
Source							

Distribution research						
Studies about office/factory/warehouse location						
Studies about distribution channel's performance						
Studies about distribution channel's coverage						
Studies about exports and international trade						
Other						
Description						
Source						

Promotion research	
Studies about the motives which determine the choice for a means of communication	
Studies about the mass communication means	
Studies about the advertising message	
Studies about the advertising efficiency: before/after broadcasting	
Studies about the competitors' advertisements	
Studies about the public image	
Studies about the sales force's compensation	
Studies about the sales force's shares	
Studies about the sales force's areas	
Studies about promotional instruments such as prizes, coupons etc	
Other	
Description	
Source	

Communication means used by a company	Description	Source
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7. Sources of secondary data

The secondary data sources were structured in several chapters to facilitate the study:

1. Specialised publications in marketing
2. Specialised publications in economics

3. Information provided by specialised institutions in consultancy and marketing research

4. Information provided by individual marketing specialists

5. Information provided by advertising agencies

6. Information provided by the economic sections of the daily newspapers

7. Job web sites

8. Research conclusions

After analysing the secondary data sources structured in: specialised publications in marketing; specialised publications in economics; information provided by specialised institutions in consultancy and marketing research; information provided by individual marketing specialists; information provided by advertising agencies; information provided by the economic sections of the daily newspapers; job web sites- 290 relevant references were identified.

In order to match these references with the research objectives, each objective was analyzed.

Objective no. 1- The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the marketing environment.

After analysing the data it was concluded that this objective had been accomplished. In this regard it was found that the Romanian marketing companies' needs related to the environment could be grouped mainly in;

- the necessity to study the features and tendencies of a market/industry;
- the necessity to study acquisitions and diversifications;
- the necessity to study market shares;
- the necessity to study the employees (their morale, the internal communication etc.).

Also other marketing needs pertaining to this objective were discovered. These needs could be grouped in needs for:

- information about the recession and recovery of the European economy;
- information about countermeasure actions regarding the economic downturn and their impact;
- macroeconomic studies;
- inter-industry studies;
- auditing studies of the managerial activities;
- studies about mergers between Romanian companies.

The hypothesis formulated for this objective was partially confirmed because other needs were found besides the ones asserted in this hypothesis.

Objective no. 2- The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the determination of the buying and consumption behaviour on a particular market.

The analysis of the collected data concluded the accomplishment of this objective. The Romanian companies' marketing needs related to the buying and consumption behaviour could be grouped mainly in needs for:

- information about brand preferences;
- information about the attitude towards a brand;
- information about product satisfaction;
- information about buying behaviour;
- information about buying intentions;
- information about brand awareness;
- information about segmentation studies.

Other marketing needs pertaining to this section were identified and grouped in needs for:

- studying the buyer-supplier relationship and ways in which a supplier is selected;
- studying the consumer and his/her evolution;
- correlation of factors influencing the marketing environment and consumer behaviour;
- correlation of the current economic situation with changes of the buying behaviour.

The hypothesis formulated for this objective was partially confirmed because other needs were found besides the ones asserted in this hypothesis.

Objective no. 3- The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to their offers and their clients' ones.

Based on the analysis of the collected data, the third objective was accomplished. The marketing needs of the Romanian marketing companies related to their offers were grouped partially in needs for:

- concept development and testing;
- brand name generation and testing;

- test market analysis;
- product testing;
- package design;
- competitors' products.

Other marketing needs related to the offer were identified. These marketing needs referred to:

- brand management;
- branding projects;
- brand reinforcement;
- brand strategy;
- local product concept;
- product certification;
- brand repositioning;
- brand usage studies;
- brand change;
- brand loyalty;
- brand image assessment;
- brand map;
- ideal brand;
- brand strategy assessment;
- brand performance;
- brand research;
- brand identity;
- personal brand;
- exclusive brand.

The hypothesis formulated for this objective was partially confirmed because other needs were found besides the ones asserted in this hypothesis.

Objective no. 4- The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the setup of their prices and their clients' ones.

The analysis of the collected data concluded the accomplishment of the 4th objective. The price-related marketing needs of the Romanian marketing companies were found, mainly, within the categories mentioned below:

- cost analysis;
- profit analysis;
- price flexibility;

- demand analysis: market potential; sales potential; sales forecasting;
- competitors' price analysis.

Other price-related marketing needs were identified. These needs refer to the following concepts:

- the concept of quality/price ratio;
- the concept of preset price;
- the concept of preferential prices;
- the concept of price level;
- the concept of purchasing power;
- the concept of penetration prices;
- the concept of top load prices;
- the concept of product line price;
- the concept of reinvested profit;
- the concept of hedging operations;
- the concept of reference price.

The hypothesis formulated for this objective was partially confirmed because other needs were found besides the ones asserted in this hypothesis.

Objective no. 5- The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the promotional options for their offers and their clients' ones.

The analysis of the collected data concluded the accomplishment of the 5th objective. The Romanian companies had marketing needs related to the promotional activities mainly drawn from:

- the research of the motives which determine the choice for a means of communication;
- the research of the mass communication means;
- the research of the advertising message;
- the research of the advertising efficiency: before/after broadcasting;
- the research of the competitors' advertisements;
- the research of the public image;
- the research of the sales force's compensation;
- the research of the sales force's shares;
- the research of the sales force's areas;
- the research of promotional instruments such as prizes, coupons etc

Other marketing needs pertaining to this section were identified and grouped in the following topics:

- viral marketing- the advertising impact;
- communication strategies;
- unconventional advertising;
- movies as mega-advertising means;
- brand and urban artistic events association and outdoor media forms;
- online PR and consultancy;
- brand engagement PR;
- commercial promotion through virtual exhibitions;
- brain reaction analysis to advertisements using scanning devices;
- good advertising and bad product situations.

The hypothesis formulated for this objective was partially confirmed because other needs were found besides the ones asserted in this hypothesis.

Objective no. 6- The identification of the Romanian marketing companies' needs in relation to the distribution possibilities for their offers and their clients' ones.

Based on the analysis of the collected data, the 6th objective was accomplished. The Romanian marketing companies had needs pertaining to distribution which could be grouped mainly in the following research studies:

- research of the office/factory/warehouse location;
- research of the distribution channel's performance;
- research of the distribution channel's coverage;
- research of exports and international trade;

Also, other needs were identified. These needs were grouped in several sections;

- manufacturer-retailer relationship;
- new distribution channels;
- distribution adaptation strategies;
- classic and online distribution strategies;
- logistics.

The hypothesis formulated for this objective was partially confirmed because other needs were found besides the ones asserted in this hypothesis.

Objective no. 7- The identification of the communication means used by the Romanian marketing companies.

Based on the analysis of the collected data, the following communication means were identified:

- daily newspapers;
- specialised publications;
- TV channels;
- Radio;
- web sites;
- online search engines;
- e-mails;
- short messages;
- multimedia messages;
- sales force;
- direct response letters;
- newsletters;
- outdoor;
- transit;
- point-of-sale display;
- promotional catalogues;
- brochures;
- instructions;
- flyers.

The hypothesis formulated for this objective was partially confirmed because other needs were found besides the ones asserted in this hypothesis.

Conclusions

It can be concluded that the needs of the Romanian marketing companies are very diversified, commencing with the research of the needs and demand on the target market, going down to the 4Ps (Product, Price, Promotion and Placement) and their components. A company's marketing needs vary according to its size, market and objectives.

These findings can be very useful for companies and individuals interested in grasping the first ideas about the areas of interest and resources needed by the marketing companies, broadly grouped in: information, skilled labour and infrastructure.

References

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