EUROPEAN UNION, CURRENT CONCEPTS OF "THE UNION IN DIVERSITY"

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Abstract

This article aims to show the current concepts of "The union in diversity ", making as several searches on the actual process that takes place in the European Union, trying to treat the components of diversity that will take effect on the common future, and the right instruments as are necessary for the process. Knowing the regional cultural diversity, and differences in the views of citizens on the integration the leaders in Europe have decided to consider diversity as a force of democracy, a stimulus for the future and not as an obstacle. So, this article presents the new proposals of the European Union on unity and diversity. On this article we will present the ideas of the European Community, values, symbols, the institutions development and the EU policies, the most important actors in the political regional and local scene, their role to understand the decision and current preferences. If we speak of the European project cannot forget to analyze the way in which it evolved over the past 50 years, the way of the transformation from the European Economic Community on the European Unity. In the recent years the European leader came to the conclusion that integration and economic well-being are not enough to advance the European project. Some thought to the political project and others to a European identity and in the end came to the idea that we need new projects to meet the current provocations.

Governance and identity are two words frequently used in legal and daily vocabulary. Analyzing them, we would like to present you how the notion of European governance born and evolved in the European project. So, does the European Union needs a strong identity? And if the answer is yes, which identity? The discovery of a common cultural heritage and intercultural dialogue are the instruments proposed by the EU to discover "the spirit of 'Europe', building a strong identity will unite European countries and in particular the European citizens.

Key words: *European Union, diversity, integration, regional policies.*

INTRODUCTION

Union and diversity are two different parts of the coin and each of them should be studied to understand the complexities of European identity.

Havel[1] said that *"peace, collaboration and cooperation are possible only for those who know who they are."* In connection with the union, there have been many projects of unification of the European continent, in order to ensure peace and prosperity in the region.

After the Second World War were established the foundations of this union that lasted 50 years and has been recognized as an ongoing process of expansion and consolidation. Now we can see the European Union, as a consolidated union with 27 Member States, treaties, institutions, policies, values and common symbols.

Above elements are those that provide the union, but that does not mean there are not a lot of discussion about their meaning or their importance in the European process. An example would be an open discussion on European values. For many Europeans, the idea of Europe as a legacy and mission does not mean anything,   because it is difficult to see what is common and what is different between the countries in Europe.

Conference "What is the Europe of values", which brought together intellectuals and representatives of Christianity, Islam and Judaism, had a mission to find the major European cultures, spiritual values mentioned in the EU treaties and the completion of the conference mentioned values such as trust, reason and critical thinking and that define the European spirit and the importance of understanding the role of trust in the process of European integration. On the other hand we can say that there is not a fixed list of European values.

 We are talking about a process, a project for the future, that should point out that Europe's cultural identity has been shaped by the permanent confrontation with the "new, different and strange" is the quality and accessibility of Europe years ago.

If we talk about the role of faith we must bear in mind the discussions at European level, which was raised in the preamble to the proposed introduction of the Constitutional Treaty in relation to the Christian faith.

Finally, European leaders have approved the Constitutional Treaty and later, in the Treaty of Lisbon 'was quoted an expression that specifies "the common values of the Member States are inspired by cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, [2]from which have been developed the universal values which are inviolable and inalienable rights. "

In the preamble and Article 1 are described these values "freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law," This community based on respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and characterized by "pluralism , non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men. "Its purpose is to promote "peace, its values and the well-being of their people" and through these statements becomes a community of values and a community with a purpose.

The diversity exists among the member states. This diversity exists within them and among citizens. also existed among the six founding countries but became more evident after the geographic expansion, in the differences in the demographic, social, economic, political and cultural.

Unlike the national state, the Union faces language difficulties, differences in history, ethnicity and faith in the process of creating a community, this presents a great diversity

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1 Vaclav Havel , was a Czech playwright, essayist, poet, dissident and politician

2 Council of Europe, *Impact of European Cultural Routes on SMEs'* innovation and competitiveness, pg 23

within the European Union. For example: The EU has recognized 23 official languages and over 150 regional and minority languages, while faith plays two roles in the story, is a factor of unity and division in Europe.

The differences between the Member States begin with a cultural diversity, geographic, demographic, socio-economic, in the political and electoral system, and in the end of politics.

Union is more difficult to reach because of these differences that we have already mentioned, it depends on the time and the motivation of accession, historical experiences, relations with the rest of the world, political traditions, concepts of nationality, ethnicity or religion, level of economic and social development.

All these elements are important because they affect the behavior of states facing European policy and the distribution of the EU budget. Members States have different opinions about the balance between public and private power in areas in which decisions are taken at national or European level, but also in the integration process.

Another element that should be noted is the diversity of the opinions among European citizens. With the help of surveys and opinions received from the European Commission, are received important information regarding the recognition of EU citizens and their behavior in relation to the various entities, institutions, policies and policy priorities, concerns for the future, value, citizenship, etc. However, reflecting the diversity of cultures and opinions in the EU, the polls show that Europeans share the same concerns for the future.

1. The concepts of union and diversity

A topical issue is the nature of the process of European integration. The argument is not new, the discussions started on the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community and continues to this day. So theories have arisen which emphasized the role of the nation-state and intergovernmental cooperation, but also international cooperation and the role of regional and local actors and supranational institutions. We are not able to say which of these theories was the best, but we can say that the European Union is the result of the clashes, the compromise between these two views.

So it is more than an intergovernmental organization, not a federal state but a "hybrid". Elements of federalism[3] may be considered citizenship, currency, budget, resources, the principle of subsidiarity, legal personality, but missing - Constitution. Waiver of the constitutional treaty project is considered as a proof that Europeans are not prepared to throw open towards federation. Supporters of this trend affirm that national interests are well represented at every level of decision and with the exception of certain areas, decisions are taken by all member states. Most researchers believe that Europe has drawn federal state model from the beginning, stating political aspirations contained in the preamble of the Treaty of Rome that talked about a "union of the people of Europe" [4]and that the founding fathers did not want creation of a federal state but strengthen cooperation remaining states remain main pillar, while supranational was not meant to replace intergovernmental

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[3]George A. Bermann , Taking subsidiarity seriously: Federalism in the European Community and in United States, Columbia Law Review, 1994, pg.5

[4] The Treaty of Rome, officially the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (TEEC), was an international agreement that led to the founding of the (EEC) on 1 January 1958.

cooperation but make possible - integration process which has been carried out and is determined by the member States and their national interests.

As we explain, the EU is somewhere "in the middle" of an intergovernmental organization and a federation. The EU is a system in which powers are shared and negotiated. Government and state institutions do not have a favorable role and should cooperate with non-state actors, civil society, NGOs, interest groups, etc.

Changes brought about not assume the disappearance of national-state, but only modify its role. So it was necessary a more complex treatment of this topic and less rigid, to reconcile with the general interest all the special interests.

The European Commission has defined governance as "rules, processes and behavior Amongst which articulate their interests, exercise power and manage resources in a society" and clarifies the notion of "good governance" by introducing transparent and accountable management of natural resources, economic and financial in order to develop fair and sustainable governance based on the principles of "participation, accountability, efficacy, coherence, subsidiarity and proportionality.

However, net of these relationships is the one that has set in the past few years the emergence of two complementary phenomena: globalization and fragmentation, integration and differentiation. On the one hand, people have the feeling to they belong to several communities and want some material benefits to the global economy, but on the other hand there is a fear of loss of collective identities, and traditional values.

Identity is usually constructed throughout the history, traditions, languages and ethnicities in common. When these elements represent a great diversity, where can be constructed a European identity? Is there really need for an EU identity?[5]

We can say that for the European leaders in '70 years, the creation of a European identity has been a goal and now can trace the history and evolution of this concept.

The recognition of changes in the acceptance of the Europeans in their diversity, can be the simultaneous existence of Greek culture, Latin, Germanic, Anglo-Saxon, Slavic, to create a common European heritage, but we have to identify the cultural resources that may be relevant to the future of European society. The long history of common adverse events should motivate Europeans and should give us a sense of accomplishment of objectives, although democracy has triumphed to disasters in the past. In fact the identity built between continuing operations, as a process that involves the creation and recreation of all life, is been influenced by time, space, the political climate, and the community is the idea we have of 'union and the meaning that we give. This means that the associated ideas and notions of identity may remain the same, but their meaning changes over time.

The idea of diversity in the 70th years was considered an obstacle in the path of European integration, while today it is seen as an asset and a source of stimulation creativity at European level.

Some citizens think that must be the difference between Europe and the European project between cultural and spiritual identity and bureaucratic European project.

Cultural and political identity are two different things, which do not match, otherwise the lack of a European cultural identity between states can not be used as proof of identity under political opportunities. Political identity based on a set of values and constitutional principles, a pattern of social relations and a system of governance, should bring a European public space and can provide a structure to meet different national cultural identities.

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5 Tomasz Wicherkiewicz, Endangered Languages, Ethnicity, Identity and Politics, http://languagesindanger.eu/book-of-knowledge/endangered-languages-ethnicity-identity-and-politics, clicked in 20.04.2013

European identity remains a concept that has not yet a clear understanding. This concept is seen as an opportunity for some, while for others as a utopia. European identity, the same as the European project is still in formation and evolution.

2. The institutionalization of the principle of unity in diversity of the EU

If we talk about the actors who created the EU we will see two characteristics of the union in diversity: a union that operates in a legal and institutional framework and a diversity of roles, functions, interests, and the power they wield. Institutional architecture is one of the elements that define the EU as a single institutional system.
European institutions tried to slow down the pace of expansion aimed at strengthening the EU. European Commission and the European council present supranational interests. Opinions are divided about the role of the national state in the current European system. Some authors believe that the role of the state has changed. The state has banned a part of its sovereignty and accept the monitored by supranational institutions. Others think that the state is still the main actor in the EU framework being introduced at all levels and sectors of power.[6]

If you talk to political parties, as representatives of the interests of citizens in national and European level, in this case the thoughts begin to unfold. EU considers European political parties a crucial element of democracy and the creation of a European consciousness.

EU through its laws and policies, has created " an ever closet union among people", but the concept of unity is complex and refers to European economic, political and spiritual. In the early years, European leaders thinking more economic integration, however, was an area where all states were not thinking much about the national interest to tackle a common objective-economic progress. Meanwhile became evident that economic integration was do not sufficient, because do not unite Europeans economic interests. It should be found new forces of cohesion while the creation of a new European identity was one of the main objectives of the EU.

A European identity has its foundation in the principles of solidarity and of cohesion, two principles promoted by regional policy. European regional policy is one of the most important policies of EU policies.

Regional policy offers new opportunities for the whole territory of the EU, while the results can be viewed by all European citizens, because they are the first beneficiaries of this policy. Regional policy has evolved over time, and was adopted by the changes that have occurred in the world. Now regional policy invests are not only in infrastructure but also in competition, innovation, research and development.

Let's go back to the idea of unity in diversity, it can be applied to the cultural policies of European countries. EU offers some principles, recommendations and leading lines, but each Member State applies its model of cultural policy, having differences with other national policies, for example, funds from the national budget or the determination of priorities for the sectors.

If we make a comparison with regional policy, cultural policy in the '90s was a priority in the European agenda, and now has a smaller budget than regional policy-approximately

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6 Francesca Bignami , Creating European Rights : national Values and supranational interest, Columbia Journal of European Law, 2005, pg.9

400 million euros for the period 2007-2013, while regional policy has 350 billion euros for the period.[7]

It was thought that the idea of European cultural heritage starts from: values, common heritage and regional and local diversity. Otherwise, the EU mission is to protect and promote it, as at the national level and international, to include cultural part to the external relations and in other EU policies.

To become more familiar the European culture and to create a sense of European citizenship which is based on culture, the EU has proposed as an objective the common heritage, promotion of creativity, promotion of more people in knowing the culture and promotion of intercultural dialogue to ensure that Europe's cultural diversity is understood, respected and promoted.

All these objectives can be achieved only if there is a dialogue and partnership between institutions, Member States, civil society and professionals in the field of culture - cultural institutions, non-governmental organizations, European networks, foundations, etc. and if you we develop creative partnerships between the cultural sector and other sectors (IT, research, tourism, etc.), to strengthen the social and economic impact of investments in culture and creativity.

Among the cultural activities we can fight poverty and promote social inclusion can, of the groups which are in disadvantage: the young unemployed, domestic persons, immigrants. The EU' s role is the main in promoting these projects which combine cultural objectives of the social agenda. We also need a common vision, a longer term strategy and initiatives, which should promote by political leaders but also by representatives of the civil society and the media.

Conclusions

The problem of concepts: cultural diversity - is the current institutional unity. These concepts are faced with communication difficulties, which arise from cultural diversity. Misunderstandings occur not only in intercultural relations but also within the same culture.

Intercultural dialogue is an instrument of cultural diversity assessment, an instrument that will have access only at the moment where we will find ourselves facing the values that make up our national identity and shall be proud that we are part of our nation.

The concept of unity in diversity is promoted by the EU because the cultural diversity is a step towards freedom, peace and progress. There is nothing else left us only to note the progress made by the cultural policy in 20 years of its existence. EU must respond to the provocations of internal diversity, new global trends and demands of European citizens.

Cultural policies and intercultural dialogue through other initiatives demonstrate the competitive advantage of cultural diversity and stimulates creativity, innovation, interest and respect for culture - a common heritage and diverse at the same time.

Then we will prove that the slogan of the European Union works and Europeans are all united in diversity.

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