

DELIA SUIOGAN¹, ROMANIA

Postdoctoral Grant Recipient²Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

Key words: globalization, multiculturalism, intercultural dialogue, cultural identity, diversity, unity

Cultural Identity Within the Framework of Globalization

Our society becomes more and more complex. Migration, multiplication of contacts, and the disappearance of borders are all obvious realities. Intercultural dialogue represents a tool for the reevaluation of cultural diversity, a tool which we will have access to only when we find again the values that are part of our national identity, and we are proud to be part of our nation. If not, the wish to belong to a group will lack, as well as the need to identify the original culture; this will lead to a destruction of unity within the nation, and generates deficient external relations. The intercultural perspective entails considering the cultural dimension of the social relationship, and observing the equilibrium existent between the promoting of one's specific cultural identity, and showing respect for cultural diversity – that is, maintaining intercultural communication. In order that these get accomplished, some stereotypes and prejudices need to be overcome: discrimination, marginalization, and isolation.

Mankind finds itself in a period which is characterized by two complementary phenomena, which are manifest simultaneously and with comparable force: the processes of integration and re-affirmation of ethnic and national identity. These are two complementary and simultaneous processes, which contemporaneous societies are meant to harmonize and articulate in non-conflict forms. The issue of European integration is

¹ Universitatea de Nord Baia Mare, România; delso2007@yahoo.com

² „ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: This paper is supported by the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development (SOP HRD), financed from the European Social Fund and by the Romanian Government under the contract number POSDRU ID 56815”

intersected, in fact, with the issue of globalization. Integration within the European space is a step in the integration in the circuit of globalization.

Within the complex process of globalization, the issue of maintaining cultural identity presents two aspects, which are closely linked: the danger of cultural homogenization, together with the appearance and acknowledgement of just one form of culture, and the phenomenon of cultural and psychological disintegration, both for the individuals, and for entire communities. A strengthening of identity is used, in many cases, as a control mechanism, against chaotic globalization.

In spite of the common belief, that globalization imposes a hegemony of culture, reality demonstrates the fact that there exists a cultural resistance that persists, and that becomes, as value, stronger and stronger. This resistance gives way to the existence of cultural diversity, which can promote the mutual interest of society.