The "Europenity" Index. Statistical Survey on Five Target Groups

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Abstract

The research aims to evaluate the perception of the population, represented by five target groups, on "European citizenship". We propose an evaluation methodology according to four criteria: the opportunity of Romania's adherence to the European Union; the interest in European themes; identity of European citizenship; complementarity between national and European identity. The survey was conducted on a sample of 800 people from various social backgrounds.

1. Introduction

There is no consensus on defining the concepts of Europeanization and the European citizen. Some speak of the Europeanisation of the internal policy of the member states, others of the Europeanization of society, sometimes Europeanization is approached as a phenomenon adjacent to the enlargement process etc. (Bărbulescu & Răpan, 2009, p.345). A more elaborate treatment gives the concept a wider sense: Europeanization as a transfer of good practice; Europeanization as a process of political unification; Europeanisation as an adaptation of national systems to European institutions; Europeanization as an extension (Olsen, 2002, p.921-952; Qualia, 2007, p.407; Ion, 2013, p.203).

There are opinions that Europeanization is not a theory but only a process that can be explained by theory (Radaelli, 2009, p.113). Claudio Radelli considers that "Europeanization must not be confused with convergence or harmonization" (Radaelli, 2009, p.108) and it is not equivalent to integration because "we do not assume that a greater degree of Europeanization leads to a more efficient process of the implementation of public policies" (Anderson & Eliassen, 2001, p.12).

The most common definition of Europeanization is that it refers to the processes of construction, dissemination, institutionalization of formal and informal rules, procedures and policies (Ion, 2013, p.204).

It should be made clear that the Treaty of Maastricht was the one that gave the citizens of the Member States the supreme title of "European citizen", which also implies a change in the way we design our national and European affiliation. Through such an interpretation, "the community ideal of supranationalism evokes and reflects the ideas of Illuminism, privileging the individual" (Weiler, 2009, p.253).

2. The "Europenity" Index. Objectives and methodology of the research

From the perspective of our research, we consider that there are two directions of approach.

A first direction is the appreciation of the Europenity index at the level of the administrative-territorial units: municipalities, towns, communes.

A second direction focuses on how the population understands being European: the advantages / disadvantages of Romania's integration into the EU; the visibility of European issues and the interest of citizens in these themes; cultural, civic and instrumental identity.

Concerning the first direction, we highlight the research conducted by the Group of Applied Economics (GEA) within a project for four major cities, county residences: Cluj, Timisoara, Iasi and Constanta. The European Index was structured into three sub-indices: administrative; economic; socio-cultural. The scale used was 1 - 4, 1 being a low degree of Europeanity, 4 a high degree of Europeanity. The conclusion of the GEA study was that Timisoara has the highest European index followed by Cluj and Constanta (GEA).

In our work we will focus on the second direction of research.

Objectives of research:
- The perception of the population about the opportunity of Romania's adherence to the European Union (I1);
- People's interest in European themes (I2);
- Identity of the European citizen on the studied population (I3);
- Complementarity between national identity and European identity (I4)

Evaluation method: statistical analysis based on questionnaire.

The sample has studied five target groups:
- students from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Victor Babeş" Timişoara (UMFT) with a weight of 25%;
- students from West University of Timişoara (UVT) with a weight of 25%;
- resident physicians in the cities of Timisoara, Arad, Oradea, Lugoj with a weight of 7% (R);
- top-management of companies in the cities of Timisoara, Arad, Oradea, Lugoj with a weight of 10% (M);
- employees from the private system in Timişoara, Arad, Oradea, Lugoj with a weight of 33% (S).

The distribution of the questionnaires was done directly for students and residents and electronic for top-management and employees.

Methodology:
- the European Index (I) = $\sqrt[4]{I_1 \times I_2 \times I_3 \times I_4}$
- evaluation grid: on a scale of 1 to 5, the perception of the target group on opportunity, interest, identity and complementarity (the four objectives set) was measured where: 1 - very low level; 2 - low level; 3 - average level; 4 - high level; 5 - very high level.
- structure of the sample: a total of 1000 questionnaires were distributed, validated were 800, 80% of which we considered good.

Table no. 1 The structure of the sample

Total respondents	UMFT	UVT	R	M	S
800	200	210	56	70	264

- sample representativity:

$$n = \frac{t^2 \times p \times q}{e^2} = \frac{t^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2}$$

Extracting the sample with a probability of 95% where:
- n - the size of the sample;
- t - the statistical confidence rating considered (t = 1.96 corresponding to a confidence level of 0.95 in the statistical tables);
- p - the frequency of occurrence of the phenomenon studied in the sample (we consider p = 0.50 for a dispersion with the maximum possible value);

- q = 1 - p = 1 - 0.50 = 0.50;
- e - allowed tolerance margin.

Result: n = 384.16, therefore our sample is statistically representative.

3. Conclusions

Conclusion no. 1: The perception of the population about the opportunity of Romania's accession to the EU

Table no. 2 Received answers

Respondents category		Mark awarded					Scoring
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	UMFT	–	–	–	80	120	920
2	UVT	–	–	20	60	130	950
3	R	–	–	–	6	50	274
4	M	–	–	20	40	10	270
5	S	20	10	34	80	120	1064
Total		20	10	74	266	430	3476
							800

Table no. 3 Statistical indicators

σ	v	m	m_1	m_2	m_3	m_4	m_5
0,886	20,3%	4,345	4,60	4,52	4,09	3,86	4,00
σ – average square deviation; v – coefficient of variation; m – overall average; m_1 – UMFT average; m_2 – UVT average; m_3 – R average; m_4 – M average; m_5 – S average							

Interpretation:
- The value of the coefficient of variation (20.3%) shows that the series is homogeneous being statistically validated;
- The overall average of 4,345 across the sample shows that the investigated population has a very favorable perception of the opportunity of Romania's EU adherence. The answers have a logical explanation:
  o The majority of the population was favorable to Romania's adherence to the EU (65% at national level);
  o The sample we study represents the population, mostly with higher education, from large western cities with a higher level of perception of EU integration.
- There are no significant differences between the average sample size and the groups we have studied. Except for top-management, all responses are in the upper quartet. The explanation given by some company directors disapproves the policies practiced by the Romanian government by granting facilities to foreign companies.

$$I_1 = 4,34$$

Conclusion no. 2: The interest of the population in European themes

Table no. 4 Statistical indicators

σ	v	m	m_1	m_2	m_3	m_4	m_5
0,863	31,0%	2,777	2,95	3,142	3,285	4,00	1,924

- The average value on the whole sample of 2,777 is closer to the lower quart. The bottom line is that at least the investigated population shows a low interest in European themes. Our question may not have been perceived correctly, but the distribution of responses by respondents would not confirm this hypothesis. A logical explanation would be that European

themes are debated in the media when the subjects have a negative connotation. Very little is debated about real issues - projects, European programs. The lack of concerns about European issues is also confirmed by the fact that few are the ones who know the names of the Romanian MEPs, and even less the programs launched by them.

- Employees show the least interest (1,924), while top management is in the upper quartet (4,00). An explanation would be that managers, in the interest of companies, are obliged to connect to European problems.
- The higher level of medicine residents (3,285) would be explained by their concern to work in EU countries.
- As far as students are concerned, the perception is around the average, which we believe corresponds to reality.

$$I_2 = 2,777$$

Conclusion no. 3: The identity of European Citizen

Table no. 5 Statistical indicators

σ	v	m	m_1	m_2	m_3	m_4	m_5
0,573	17,2%	3,33	3,25	3,047	3,107	2,85	3,787

- The average value of 3.33 gives the following significance: although European integration has been and still remains an option for most Romanians, the same majority finds that between the German citizen and the Romanian citizen there is no factual equality (pay, access to work , etc.). This difference is not always done by competence, but simply that the German lives in Germany and the Romanian in Romania. The value is close to the national level (66%) according to the Eurobarometer of 2017.
- What seems surprising to us is the perception of top-management below the average level (2.85). Discussions have shown that they perceive the phrase "European citizen" from the perspective of business relations with companies in EU countries.
- At first glance, the perception of employees above average (3,787) was a surprise. The explanation came from personal discussions: young people are practically "hunted" by foreign companies. They feel European because the companies appreciate their competence.

$$I_3 = 3,33$$

Conclusion no. 4: The complementarity between national and european identity

Table no. 6 Statistical indicators

σ	v	m	m_1	m_2	m_3	m_4	m_5
0,656	17,8%	3,682	3,25	3,809	4,107	3,714	3,810

- The average perception of 3,682 approaches the superior quart, pointing out that the population surveyed considers that the relationship between national identity and European identity is in terms of coexistence.
- Residents are close to the superior quart, which means they share the idea of a beneficial coexistence between national and European identity. This is probably explained by the fact that more and more Romanian doctors work abroad and accommodate them in other countries of the Union.

$$I_4 = 3,682$$

Conclusion no. 5: The Europenity Index (I)

$$I = \sqrt[4]{4,34 \times 2,77 \times 3,33 \times 3,682} = 3,49$$

According to our methodology, if $I \geq 2.5$ means that the population perceives positively integration, considering that the EU has common values, conferring a European identity and civic identity. From our statistical research ($I = 3,49$) we conclude that, with all the shortcomings, the population perceives the advantages of integration to a fairly high level.

In conclusion, the five target groups believe that the European Union remains an option with favorable prospects.

4. References

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