

HISTORICAL ROOTS OF CENTRAL-EUROPEAN EUROPEANNESS

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Abstract: *This article proposes to validate a new vision of a qualitative research methodology in the field of management. The novelty derives from the multi-scientific and multidisciplinary treatment of the European regional or zonal integration process by merging the scientific research in the managerial field with that of the historical, social, anthropological etc. domains. This approach or methodology is a precursor phase for transdisciplinary research. The objective of the methodology is to enrich the fundamental knowledge through the potential of conceptual apparatus development. The method used also reveals the pursuit, over extended periods of time, of the appearance, evolution and possible disappearance or transformation of various sociological, political, administrative phenomena and not only. In the particular case, the article will treat a distinctive European integration process pre-existing to the European Union, in other words a process of European pre-integration. The dimensions and preconditions of the process will be presented, valid for the Banat region and implicitly for the city of Timișoara. The research examines the period of the Imperial Integration (Stirk, 2006, 12) starting with the administrative change in 1716 which represents the transition from Ottoman to the Austrian then Austro-Hungarian administration. The main cognitive contribution, of the research derives from the potential to generate or identify multiple points of view, treaty angles, considerations of a European pre-integration process. We consider these methodological benefits to be useful for streamlining, facilitating the process of European integration and preventing or solving the obstacles and challenges that have arisen or may arise along this ongoing process. The process of Europeanization, through its characteristics (social, political, economic, etc.), draws attention to the first important signals on the dynamics (especially on the growth) of the Europeanness degree. We can say that this research can draw attention to signals that imply adverse changes, on which, if implemented in a timely manner, with the help of an efficient management of integration, it is possible to diminish or even eliminate possible negative effects. The research was based on a multidisciplinary approach, analyzing managerial challenges (administrative implications in pre-integration processes) described in multiple primary sources of information. Information deduced from the study of the original administrative historical documents (using the methodology of historical research and documents from the Romanian National Archives directory) belonging to the period 1716-1914, as well as the analysis of descriptions from monographies, books of anthropology, political science, historical research books and conceptualization, but also from many types of dictionaries (explanatory, etymological, etc.) of different languages.*

Keywords: *Pre-European Integration; Europeanization; Process; Challenges; Historical roots.*

JEL Classification: *N93; R11; R58.*

1. European Character and the Europeanization Process

Being European by having common past, common values or simply geographical belonging to Europe is the most used meaning in the dictionary of the "European" concept, regardless of language. Becoming European involves engagement in the process of Europeanization. The need to analyze different explanatory sources in different languages for the concept of Europeanization was due to the multicultural and / or multilingual implicit nature of the process of integrating one or more cultures, identities, nationalities under a common umbrella. Thus we have concluded that the process of Europeanization is treated, in most of the explanatory sources, as a process of change, transformation (of the institutional, confessional, state, urbanity model), with an integrating role, a civilizing process, a return to the European source, change, re / conversion, revitalization, renewing, modernization, etc.. Variation and multiple connections from different sources connect the process of Europeanization through at least three dimensions (Socio-Cultural, Institutional-Administrative, and Economic-Geographic) and different nuances of current research. Thus, the process of European integration becomes conditioned by the process of Europeanization and is closely related to urban, regional, etc. change, transformational and civilizing processes. The existence of the above-described link can be also found in the current trends of the concept of European integration, more precisely explained by the concept of Europeanism (Scruton, 2007, 229). This concept describes the close link between European institutions, geographic and historical aspects as a determinant in shaping and maintaining well-being in the European integration process.

Pre-conditions of Europeanization Process

Another angle of analysis of the integration process is the existence of pre-conditions that are necessary before the implementation of Europeanization and, implicitly, of the European integration process. We believe that the absence of a common fund, a common force or a common goal or predisposition towards Europeanization can be the major source of the integration challenges and can negatively influence, make it difficult or even jeopardize the success of the whole process. We need to consider convergence (3) (social, political, economic, etc.) as the initial state of pre-Europeanization (4). Thus the state of convergence / divergence, between European values in countries, nations, regions already considered to be integrated with those to be integrated, are part of the socio-cultural dimension and thus have a major impact on Europeanization process success.

The objective of European integration is to create a strong (and military) union, based on social, economic, political, etc. projects, represented by supranational institutions, while ensuring the transfer of attention from its own national benefits to greater awareness of the increased, united European benefits and stronger cooperation (5).

2. Regional Level Europeanization Process

The process of Europeanization can be identified not only on national but also at regional level, identified in the case of Banat regarding the administrative change from 1716, which was accomplished through a vast process of pre-European integration or even of Imperial integration. In the case of the Banat region and

implicitly the city of Timișoara, the common past and the culture, before integration, have activated as a potentiating and catalysing factor for European convergence, thanks to the possibility of identifying pre-Europeanization cycles as a reversion to the Central European civilization. These facts, events and information were deduced from the research by analyzing the content of the historical documents (6) issued by the Austrian and then Austro-Hungarian Empire leaders that included or were valid for the Banat region and / or the city of Timisoara (7).

3. Past Events in Current Challenges

The importance of dealing with past events derives from their role in preventing or solving the current possible challenges of the European Integration process. Creating a link or a historical network of events / histo-network (8), made up of similar situations from the past with the situations of the present or with possible future scenarios. These are a source of inspiration and an inexhaustible informational resource with strategic potential in running and intervening in different processes including Europeanisation or integrating at the urban, regional level, etc. This information resource can have direct implications with decisive effects on the success or failure of the Europeanization process by creating the possibility of generating multiple scenarios (9) decoding historical DNA of contemporary events. The preparation and analysis of these scenarios allows holistic and clear view of the process of Europeanization by providing the information base necessary for the implementation of a successful management (10) of the Europeanization process.

4. Dimensions of the Europeanization Process

The dimensions of the Europeanization process prioritized and presented in this research are only a selection because of the limited space allocated and derives from the description of the Europeanization process. Treated as a process of civilization, in the sense of education, learning, training, chiselling, polishing or as a sophistication process, the conceptual-historical correspondent of the process of Europeanization can be assimilated to the processes of adhesion, return, renewal, change, transformation, modernization, etc. The areas targeted for civilization (11) are: civilization and social, administrative-institutional and economic-geographic culture.

4.1. Cultural, Civic and Spiritual Adaptation to the Central European Europeanness

Cultural, civic and spiritual adaptation implies a high degree of socio-cultural convergence between the characteristics of the regions, the already Europeanized urban, regional areas and those to be included in this process. The existence of a common mental fund, a common cultural value setting is necessary without jeopardizing regional identity or creating harmful negative tensions. The abundance of cultural convergence results must derive from the potency of its diverse but also compatible nature. Among the positive effects of a successful cultural adaptation process, we can enumerate multiculturalism, interculturality or even more: transculturality, multi- or plurilingualism, pluri-ideological harmony, cultural, ethnic, social, tolerance as main value.

The link between the cultural adaptation of the Banat region after the administrative change from the Ottoman to the Austrian one and the contemporary cultural integration can be represented by the intercultural and transcultural European character of the past and present. The European history of the cultural adaptation process in Banat region is represented by events, historical facts that have common valences, features or cultural elements or similar to those existing during the same period in the Austrian Empire. The timeless presence of values such as socio-cultural tolerance (12) expressed through "mutual tolerance" - (key value in the process of Europeanization) facilitated the process of cultural adaptation by ensuring a positive attitude of the city and region's inhabitants and represented unity based on diversity and inter-, multi- or transcultural wealth (the harmonious cohabitation of multiple ethnicities). These include bilingualism and trilingualism among the inhabitants, which has acted as a witness to functional cultural plurality and gradual and sustained linguistic adaptability, without losing the ancestral cultural-linguistic capacities. The absence or very low number of documents in the archive showing conflicts between representatives of different ethnicities or cultures reveals a predominantly harmonious state between them throughout the analyzed period.

As proof of the existence of a successful cultural adaptation process in Banat, in addition to the common fundamental values presented above, we present some facts and historical events that can support our ideas. The existence of similar or identical artistic premieres, temporally almost simultaneously in both Banat, more specific in Timisoara city and the capital of the Empire (the premiere of Franz Liszt's concert in Timisoara shortly after its representation in Vienna), the appearance of the State Theatre in 3 languages (13) also existing today, the existence of constructions that by specific architecture belong to the same architectural styles as in the major cities of the Empire, some of them having as architect engineers the same personalities or who have studied in the major cities of the Empire. By presenting these examples, we would like to draw attention to the success of the Europeanization process through cultural adaptation in the Banat region at the level and after the administrative change from the Ottoman to the Austrian and then Austro-Hungarian one. Moreover, contemporary cultural aspects still have many features (interculturality, tolerance open to other cultures) that can facilitate the process of contemporary European socio-cultural integration, serving as a model of cultural pre-integration, in the process of Europeanization.

Thus we can identify some necessary actions in the process of cultural adaptation, such as imperative structural reform, because the European community can only represent unity in intercultural diversity (14), so does the formation of a community culture in a civic sense (15) by common mental set-up, tolerance towards other ethnic groups, and the maintenance of harmony that would allow for the development of dialogues and cooperation bridges, rather than becoming an aggravating factor in cohabitation. Between the results of a successful cultural integration we must identify similar and convergent phenomena of: cohabitation, collaboration, cooperation, co-identity assimilation, etc.

Other dimensions of integration that are closely related to the ones described above can be: integration of education, social activities, etc....

4.2. Policy Adaptation / Institutional, Administrative Adaptation to Central-European Europeanness

By another explanatory concept, Europeanization, as a precursor of the contemporary European integration of a new region, areas, etc., is the process by which functional and specific European institutional models are taken over and / or adapted and implemented.

There are several aspects Knill (2001) to be taken into account during the implementation of this complex process of institutional change / transformation. The question of the extent to which institutional integration influences the internal practices and structures of the new region or area, the issue of the compatibility of the existing European and individual state policies, respectively the tension (but also the positive potential of the tension) between them.

Institutional integration can become a catalyst for economic convergence: From the point of view of the European Union's management and leadership system, institutional integration is a key process. A European Union that integrates only citizens, and also installs the European spirit, cannot create development tools, only if it institutionalized ideologies, policies that are generally valid. This change / transformation can be achieved through multiple options, such as: institutional adaptation or the development of new institutions for each newly admitted state.

Institutional or administrative adaptation of the Banat territory was a priority after the administrative change in 1716. The very decision to administer a special not annexed regime to the Empire was an administrative renewal / change. The direct management of the Banat region and Timișoara district marks the operationalization of the Central European Europeanization process through a distinctive, direct rapid and successful institutional adaptation. The Banat region was administered (Fenesan, 1997, 19) directly by Imperial structures such as the Crown and the Imperial Chamber, through the Vienna Aulic Forces (the Aulic Chamber and the Aulic War Council) under the institutional structure of the Provincial Imperial Administration (16) of the Banat region. At the regional level, the General Command, and at the level of the city of Timișoara, the German Magistrate and then also the Serbian Magistrate (17) represented major local administrative institutions. The division of the territory represented institutional change, being carried out on administrative units called districts. The management of the localities or villages was provided by sub-administrators, as the head of each village was a citizen or mayor, and over a certain number of villages it was an oberbneze (over-mayor). The administrators were subordinate to the General Command. All these structures represent major modernization in the administration of the Banat region and Timișoara, which contributed to the process of Europeanization through institutional adaptation and the development, revitalization of the region through the elaboration of general reorganization framework plans (18). Through the transformations made, institutional structures already in place at the level of the Empire were introduced. The General Command and the Magistrates in the city benefited from flexibility and financial support from the Provincial Administration for the planned, developed and implemented urban projects at local or regional level. In addition to the central and local administrative institutions, personalities, leaders (magistrates, governors, etc.) have initiated projects and maintained institutional relationships necessary for the successful implementation and finalization of projects therefore institutional adaptation have also contributed.

4.3. Economic and Geographic Adaptation to Central European Europeanness

The close link between economic and political integration in the integration process is explained by the idea behind European integration: the creation of a strong union, based on economic and political projects that are represented by supranational institutions, in time to ensure the transfer of attention from their own national benefits to greater awareness of the increased, united benefits of the European economic space and stronger political cooperation. The insertion of a new area, by economic and geographic adaptation and managing, exploiting its natural, financial resources, etc. can generate significant economical and logistical benefits.

The economic and geographic adaptation in Banat Europeanization process was represented by revitalization of the local economy and its modernization through the new established economic relations and opportunities. In the case of the Banat region and the city of Timisoara we can deduct from the multitude of documents with economic character, from the national archives, that the economic integration was facilitated and regulated by the Austrian and then Austro-Hungarian administration. The regulations have acted as a link between political intentions (area development) and economic development of the area, mainly focused on trade and crafts. Another purpose of regulation can be considered as ensuring a legal, institutional stability that is comfortable for both domestic and foreign investors. The success of economic adaptation was also due to the effects of integrative behaviors: the widespread involvement of different ethnic groups in economic and social activities and in academic-professional life.

A first step of economic and geographic adaptation in the process of Europeanization can be seen as the development of infrastructures, for example river infrastructure projects (19) for commercial and passenger transport, road infrastructure and railways. Thus, by providing transport and road access infrastructure to the region, the Banat area can mark the beginning of the Europeanization process through economic and geographical adaptation based first on the valorisation of products and goods from agriculture and local crafts. Other dimensions of European integration may be geographic or spatial adaptation, which in the case of Banat, compared to other areas or regions, is distinctive in the process of geographic adaptation due to the special status of a region not annexed to the Empire.

This geographic adaptation process can also have double valence due to the inclusion of the area, the geographic region in different spaces with different roles. For example, the inclusion of the Banat region in the Danube area (20) and belonging to this area involved the inclusion on a multitude of politically, economically and logistically important maps, the increase of its notoriety and the implicit generation of economic benefits (21) and not only. Another area in which the Banat region was integrated was the border line or the buffer zone between the Austrian and Ottoman Empires. This integration process has generated the need to engage in defence activities, maintain and develop the border region, and has offered new status to the region while maintaining an accelerated rate of economic, social, political, technological etc. development.

5. Conclusions

Sensing the analogy made in this research between contemporary and historic events regarding the European Integration and its challenges, we can conclude that somehow the two scenarios can be linked.

It is clear that the two situations cannot be treated in the exact same way but there are areas of interference or nuances that can be reduced to a common aspects for both situations. Therefore we choose to agree on the fact that processes of adaptation, change, transformation, modernization, reconversion, etc. identified during the analyzed period regarding the Banat region and the city of Timișoara, can be assimilated to pre-Europeanization processes underlying the pre-European integration. Also the analogy created between the contemporary European integration process and the historical Imperial adaptation or pre-European integration, of the Banat region can be regarded as a complex information source in solving the challenges and also represent the historical roots of the Central European Europeanness in region of Banat. The European pre-integration process of Banat can serve as a traditional European integration model of success and the analysis of this process can provide new optics for treatment or solving contemporary challenges.

The historic Banat through the pre-Europeanization process can be regarded as a primary form of what we call an Euro region today.

Research can be extended to other regions, countries, areas, cities by analyzing their historical documents.

Limiting the space for presenting research results has not allowed the development of several points of view and other possible dimensions of both contemporary and historical European integration.

References

1. Imperial Integration - Peter Stirk (2006) presents earlier forms of an economic and political union existence of before 1945, more before the First World War. As an example, the Habsburg Empire
2. Roger Scruton (2007) defines Europeanism as " the attitude according to which the welfare and institutions of the major European states are closely linked to geographic and historical circumstances, so that no convincing political action can be followed successfully in a state without a specific reference to the European integration attempt ".
3. Convergence implies compatibility in a single action (European integration / European pre-integration) of several or multiple sub-nations, nations, regions, cities, etc. different, coming from similarly shaped environments (European character conditions)
4. Similar characteristics, e.g., common history, common historical space, traditions, common values, as in the case of European character. Explained by dictionaries and encyclopedias as the quality of being European, of values, elements, common European history.
5. Likewise, Sanders, Bellucci, Tóka (2012, 217) noticed similarities with the European integration processes, drawing attention to the pre-integration phases, such as pre-integrated regions culture as factor that has the capacity to create European divergence, endangering the success of the whole process.

6. Analyzing historical original document content regarding Banat region and Timisoara city from The County Directorate of the National Archives in Timisoara, Fund 2. City Hall of Timisoara (n.n.CDNAT). The analysis of the documents consisted of the full or partial translation of the documents, the interpretation of the content, and extensive processes of deconstruction and conceptual reconstruction.
7. For example, the existence in the archives of documents governing the regional and local education system, in addition to the regulation of other military documents and its organization, as well as Imperial interference in confessional matters.
8. Network of historical events to be represented by knot events / historical / managerial important events in our case from the point of view of the European integration process and historical facts that represent the relations between these nodes. This approach requires the factual treatment of the past facts based on the analysis of fine details, not enough to be a set-up or a factual vision of them.
9. Scenario Logic - Managerial Research Method
10. History Knowledge Based Management, or in the case of Timisoara: Urban History Knowledge Based Management. Further, these concepts can be enriched using concepts derived from the type of integration: institutional, confessional, spiritual, multicultural, etc.. Eg.: Urban Institutional History Based Management, Urban Confessional History Based Management, etc.
11. Timisoara, the civilization process was imposed through intensive development processes (investments in infrastructure development using financial contributions from external sources) implemented by the Austrian administration, as well as processes of humanizing humanity (introduction of compulsory minimum schooling, facilitation of cultural events, etc.)
12. First Rabbi Dr. Ernest Neumann (2002) and the Jews of Timisoara regarding Banat region as "buffer role"... between the border regions of the national states created in the 20th century. The "cosmopolitan model of the eighteenth century" as a result of peaceful cohabitation.
13. Source: document from CDNAT, Fund 2: Town Hall of Timisoara, Nr. inventory 141, document no.7 / 1771, file 1-18, Administrative issues of the theater between 1771-1783.
14. The sociological and anthropological approach of Integration described by Jaques Chevalier (2009, 10), - "the historical roots of the collective mentality specific to this ancient region of European culture and civilization." Integration requires a new standard the one of interculturality, complementary to economic, institutional, democratic, standards already generally accepted.
15. Stelu (2010, 150-153): " disciplining social well-being of all the inhabitants of the border region."
16. Source: document from CDNAT, Fund 2: Town Hall of Timisoara, Nr. inventory 141, document no. 3/1718, files 1-2: Report of Timisoara City Magistrate to the Landes Administration regarding the use of false weight and measures by Serbian merchants and the necessity of unification of weights and measurements.
17. Source: document from CDNAT, Fund 2: Town Hall of Timisoara, Nr. inventory 141, document no.6 / 1772- The President of the Count P. Brigodo Administration tells the Serbian Magistrate that the suburb of Mehala is removed from his administration and moves to one of the newly created perceptions (Rentämter).
18. Source: document from CDNAT, Fund 2: Town Hall of Timisoara, Nr. inventory 141, document no. 1/1718, files 1-6: Provisions issued by the Imperial Commission

for the organization of the city of Timișoara from an administrative, economic, political, religious, and legal point of view.

19. The river infrastructure project by channeling the Bega River, which provided the most economical way to transport goods and people. The canalisation of the Bega River has made the connection with Central Europe through Tisa and the Danube.

20. Integrarea regiunii Banatului ca parte a spațiului dunărean: Includerea orașului Timișoara de-a lungul mai multor secole, pe multiple hărți# care este reprezentat fluviul Dunăre de la izvoare la vărsarea în marea neagră, indiferent de apartenența politico-geografică a regiunii. Acest fapt poate fi explicat prin existența a unei compoziții teritoriale specifice, o regiune încheagată prin apropierea geografică de fluviul Dunăre. Continuitatea temporală a existenței, pe aceste hărți, a regiunii Banatului și implicit al orașului Timișoara (1578, 1608, 1688, 1739, 1750, 1789, 1803, 1856) reprezintă efortul susținut al administrației publice regionale (indiferent de personalitățile guvernante), de a dezvolta, menține sau îmbogăți căile de comunicare, infrastructura din regiune.

21. Mastering the Danube from spring to shed

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