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THE EFFECT OF CULTURAL FACTORS ON THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Abstract:

There are some keystones in the development of European integration that had certain characteristics and peculiarities reflected on the structure of Europe. All of the social, cultural, historical, economical and political factors can affect this process.

The European Union has undergone the three basic integration types; economic, political and cultural integrations. Although political integration was important, the economic integration was the most significant integration type. In the long run, cultural integration continues to be a problem. Cultural integration can be seen as a sociological problem because of its advantages and disadvantages that affect the European integration.

Most of the researchers and experts have focused on economic and political phases rather than cultural processes. In this study, an approach which centred on cultural integration towards European integration process will be examined. The effects of cultural factors will be analyzed within the framework of European integration and European identity.

Introduction

The European Union (EU) is less than a state but more than an international organization. It facilitates economic exchange, it has a supranational characteristic that uses political authority over its citizens, and it has a system of multilevel governance. (Hooghe and Marks, 2005, p. 436-437) The European Union has a supranational structure and it has undergone economic, political and cultural integrations simultaneously. Cultural integration is one of the most important problems of the European Union. It can be regarded as a social process, so it needs to be given more attention than economic and political integrations. (Açıkgöz, 2011, p. 54) As Erhard Busek said, "If I had the opportunity of starting again the integration process from scratch, perhaps it would be more efficient if it was started by cultural integration." (Obuljen, 2004, p. 10)

This study aims to examine the effect of cultural factors on the European integration. Thus, after a brief explanation of other processes, the relation between European culture and European identity will be analyzed. Finally, cultural factors that affect the European integration will be determined.

European Integration Process

The European integration is a process which aims to create an economic, socio-political and cultural unity on the European continent and between the European States. (Fürjész, 2013, p. 2) Through the history, there were so many proposals and arrangements which aimed to organize cooperation and integration among European countries. The EU was not the first of the last one. (Nugent, 2003, p. 20) But it is the most developed, best known, most important and successful initiative, which can consolidate Europe under a common roof. (Mor 2010, p. 5)

In the first half of the 20th century, world history and also the European history have faced with economic problems like the Great Depression, and countries pursued some aggressive nationalistic policies which leading to wars. At the end of World War II, a system where nation states would not follow destructive policies is supported. (Spolaore, 2013, p. 2-3) On May 9, 1950, the Schumann declaration was made and it was accepted as the founding document of European integration. The declaration emphasized that "Franco-German production of coal and steel as a whole be placed under a common High Authority, within the framework of an organization open to the participation of the other countries of Europe." Thus, the European Coal and Steel Community was founded in 1951 and this was the first step of the integration. (Spolaore, 2013, p. 5)

In the European countries, the integration process can be affected by a number of tendencies. Cultural and ethnic tensions between majorities and minorities, social and economic polarization, acculturation, or the growth of criminal activities are the examples of these tendencies. (Robert, 2006, p. 198-199)

In the European Union, the integration is an on-going process and it has different evolutional levels. There are some areas in which the integration is advanced like the economic and monetary union. And also, it can be defined as the process which tries to make come closer the different cultures on the European continent. (Fürjész, 2013, p. 2-3)

In order to understand the integration process deeply, the main integration types of Europe should be explained. Firstly, the economic integration and the political integration will be examined. Then, the cultural integration will be analyzed. So, it will be easier to understand the reason why the cultural factors are important for the integration process.

Economic Integration

Now in Europe, the process of economic integration is more than half a century old. (Campos, Coricelli & Moretti, 2014, p.1) When the 1952 Paris Treaty established the European Coal and Steel Community and the 1957 Rome Treaty established the European Economic Community (EEC), the six founders of the EU started out with modest goals. One of them was the creation of a European common market and customs union. As time passed by, the European Union membership has expanded from 6 to 28, and the authority of the Union has extended to almost every area of modern economic and social life. (Fligstein, Polyakova & Sandholtz, 2012, p. 106) During this process, there were many milestones which have enriched the European integration, such as the establishment of the European single market in 1993, the circulation of the euro in 2002 and the European Union's largest enlargement in 2004. All of them showed the success of the European Union integration process. (Wang, 2009, p. 152)

Although the integration process was the most differentiated example of inter-state co-operation of the past 500 years, as it is seen historically, the process of European integration was initiated from an economic base. (Fligstein, Polyakova & Sandholtz, 2012, p. 106) In fact, the target was both economic and political integration of Europe but, starting with the economic one was the most important choice of the EU. Because the main aim of the Union was to prevent the war on the European Continent by limiting the usage of coal and steel which are used in the weapons industry. The European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community were the basis of economic cooperation in Europe. (Mor, 2010, p. 5)

The European economic integration has five important stages. First of them is 'Free Trade Area'. According to free trade area rules, the import tariffs and import quotas between member states and signatory countries are eliminated. However, all countries can continue their own tariffs against non-EU members. (Ozdemir, 2013, p. 79)

The second level of economic integration is 'Customs Union'. It removes internal barriers to trade so that it creates a free trade area. The main difference between the

Customs Union and Free Trade Area is common external tariff and import quotas on products which entering the EU from non-members countries. (Holden, 2003, p. 1)

The third one is 'Common Market'. The rules of the customs union are still valid. In addition to them, all barriers to the mobility of people, capital and other resources within the area of operation are removed by Common Market. (Nelsen & Stubb, 2003, p. 24)

The fourth one is 'Economic Union'. It can be described as the deepest type of economic integration. It is also the coordination of monetary and fiscal policies, and also labor market, regional development, and industrial policies. (Holden, 2003, p. 1)

Finally, the most integrated and coordinated form of economic integration is 'Economic and Monetary Union'. It symbolized the common currency and a unified monetary policy. (Ette, 2014, p. 26)

When the economic integration processes are completed, the economic market became more competitive and innovative. (Brou & Ruta, 2007, p. 3) Since the 1950s, economic integration has deepened and broadened, with slowdowns but without major change. (Campos, Coricelli & Moretti, 2014, p.1)

Political Integration

From the beginning, the founders of the EU agreed that when the economic integration process was established, political integration would follow it. It was accepted as Ernst Haas' theory of integration. He defined a 'spillover' mechanism in which co-operation would lead more co-operation and more supranational rule-making. So that, more actors would engage the process of the EU integration. (Fligstein, Polyakova & Sandholtz, 2012, p. 106) When the Treaty of the European Single Act in 1987 was signed, the European integration has gained a political dimension. (Mor 2010, p. 5)

The integration in a political sense can be identified with uniting, unifying, organizing in a group of two or more units and it represents centralization. Political integration should be based on some elements and conditions. Such as establishing a unified law frame, creating common institutions, developing decision-making process, and creating an identity of the integrated community. (Ilievski, 2015, p. 2) Although economists have generally interested in the growth effects of economic integration, the effects of political integration on economic growth should not be ignored. (Brou & Ruta, 2007, p. 3) Political unification should also be determined with cultural integration. Because in a country, if different groups speak different languages, share different cultural values, and have different preferences for public policies, political unification can not be decentralized at the sub-federal level. (Spolaore, 2013, p. 3)

Nowadays, the European Union becomes not only a multi-economical entity, but also an important member in the world of a multi-political entity. So, it is a model of region economy and a political integration. (Wang, 2009, p. 152)

Cultural Integration

Culture is a significant term that we can find a numerous definition of it. (Obuljen, 2004, p. 20) Over the centuries, the word culture has been used with many meanings, developing with history and social circumstances. (Jehan, 2011, p. 85) In a narrow sense, culture can be restricted to be described by the literature, music, arts and philosophy. In a broad sense, it refers to a combination of ideas, values, customs and societies. As a sociological term, it is defined as a social system whose function is the symbolic reproduction of society. (De Witte, 1990, p. 193) A generally accepted definition is that "culture is a set of shared and enduring meanings, values and beliefs that characterize national, ethnic, or other groups and orient their behaviour". Thus, culture can be described as something shared by almost all members of a social group, something one tries to pass on, which shapes behaviour through morals, laws, values and customs, or structures, one's perception of the world. (Leitner, 2000, p. 20)

The 1957 Rome Treaty that established the European Economic Community did not mention of neither the word culture nor its components such as education or art. In the EU, culture is politically gained attention and institutionalized when the Maastricht Treaty entered into force. (Jehan, 2011, p. 86) Culture is used as a way to encourage, support and supplement the member states' actions. The article 151 of the Maastricht Treaty has emphasized the importance of culture: "While respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore". This provision is still valid and it can be seen in the article 167 of the Lisbon Treaty. (Jehan, 2011, p. 86)

For the time being, cultural diversity has been a persistent feature of the European continent. Diversity is one of the sources from which societies can benefit economically and culturally, through learning, and exchange of ideas and innovations. Thus, heterogeneity is mostly beneficial when people interact about rival goods (different preferences over rival goods can facilitate peaceful exchanges and a better allocation of resources) but costly when sharing non-rival goods (similar preferences over the same rival goods can lead closely related groups to conflict and war). However, rulers have always attempted to homogenize populations in order to reduce heterogeneity costs and maximize their own interests. (Spolaore, 2013, p. 4-5) The elites of the Union agreed that if European citizens share a European culture, oppositions to economic integration can be decreased. Briefly, being a part of European culture is seen related to public support. (Wang, 2009, p. 152-153) European integration supports multiculturalism. But, some European citizens think that their national culture is under threat by the EU. So, they do not agree to support the European integration. (McLaren 2002, p. 554) In sum, citizens who strongly identify themselves with their national community and who support exclusionary norms can perceive European integration as a threat. (Hooghe and Marks, 2005, p. 423) Those people, who are fearful of the European integration process, are expected to feel more negative to the European Union. (Carey, 2002, p. 393)

For over fifty years, the process of European integration has been associated with economic terms. However, scholars emphasize that Europe is first and foremost a cultural entity. (Jehan, 2011, p. 85) Even though member states do not want to lose their cultural identity, the cultural cohesion in the European Union is accepted as the most important sociological part of the European integration. (Fürjész, 2013, p. 1) As European integration moves forward, culture becomes more and more significant. (Wang, 2009, p. 152-153)

The Relation between National Identity, European Identity and European Culture

After understanding the integration processes, similarities between the European identity and the European culture should be analyzed. And also, the oppositions between the national identity and the European identity should be examined. The national identity and the European identity are mainly different terms. The European integration process tries to combine these terms.

As it is mentioned, the main goal of European integration was to prevent war on the European continent, and also to reduce nationalism to provide long-term peace. (Mclaren, 2004, p. 896) Although integration has firstly been economic, the European citizens have mostly faced with its cultural sides.

The strongest territorial identities are national in nature. (Hooghe and Marks, 2005, p. 422-423) There is a close relation between national identity and the European integration process. It is not unusual for citizens to have multiple identities, for example, it is possible to feel Catalan, Spanish, and European at the same time. It is understood that while the national identity is the first and the most important one, there is a growing sense of Europeanness in most people's minds. This situation implies that more people are integrating in a sense of belonging to not only their national policies but also to the EU policies. (Hooghe and Marks, 2005, p. 423) However, in the European integration process, every European society must find its own integration solutions according to its own traditions and institutions. For example, the integration model which is used in the United Kingdom might not be usefull in Germany. There are significant differences between two countries' assimilation and integration policies. (Brie, Polgar & Chirodea, 2012, p. 7)

One of the European integration goals which are declared in the Maastricht Treaty is to create 'an ever closer union among the people of Europe, in which decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen.' It tried to establish a framework for European citizenship. According to the treaty, 'Every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union.' (Carey, 2002, p. 388) In the European Council's Millennium Declaration of December 1999, the idea of European identity is formally used. This declaration shows a desire both the Union and the member states to define a European cultural identity as a set of values that shared by all citizens of the Union. (Leitner, 2000, p. 21) In 2001, the European Commission declared a white

paper, which emphasized on the reinforcement of 'European identity and the importance of shared values within the Union'. (Carey, 2002, p. 388)

It is estimated that the creation of a European identity can lead to increased public support for the European integration. How states define themselves culturally, politically and economically is important to the future of integration. (Carey, 2002, p. 390) Cultural diversity, pluralism, cultural hetereogeinty and multiculturalism are elements specific to the European continent. The European integration process is very complicated. (Brie, Polgar & Chirodea, 2012, p. 7) But, every enlargement process has brought the EU more traditions, more religions and more languages, which makes the formation of European identity more difficult and complex. (Wang, 2009, p. 155)

As it is mentioned before, the European Council's Millennium Declaration of December 1999 was very significant for the European identity concept. According to the declaration, "The Union's citizens are bound together by common values such as freedom, tolerance, equality, solidarity and cultural diversity." Cultural homogeneity and cultural diversity are the main terms which reflect the integration dilemma. (Leitner, 2000, p. 20) Cultural homogeneity is generally related to universalization and uniformity of values, images and ideas that broadcast by media or cultural industry, whereas cultural diversity is associated with the plurality of ideas, values and expressions. (Brie, Polgar & Chirodea, 2012, p. 1-2)

It is obvious that the Europeans are bound together by their diversity. Thus, to create a European identity notion, there should be respect for cultural diversity in member states. In the article 6 of the Amsterdam Treaty, it is stated that "The Union shall respect the national identities of its Member States". If cultural diversity of the Union is promoted, respect to national identities can also increase. (Leitner, 2000, p. 20) As a result, the notion of "unity in diversity" is accepted as the Union's motto. This situation is used in the flag and the anthem of the Union. (Schlenker, 2010, p. 10) Unity in diversity can be also named as "Kaleidoscopic Culture". The European culture is formed by the diversity of national and regional cultures, languages and identities. (Jehan, 2011, p. 89) Respect to cultural diversity makes the Union open to new member countries. (Schlenker, 2010, p. 10) The growing Union should emphasize the importance of common policies and actions in regard to culture. (Jehan, 2011, p. 89) Cultural integration is related with creation of common policies and common actions. (Mclaren, 2004, p. 896)

The European identity and the European Union identity have different meanings and feelings. The European citizens may feel being as a part of Europe, but they may not feel a sense of belonging to the European Union. However, nation-states in European continent are used to being defined as EU members, non-members, or would-be members. Thus, it is not possible for the European nation-states to ignore the EU. Identifying with Europe signifies identifying with the EU as well. (Wang, 2009, p. 152)

It is thought that the European identity can be created, but it has taken a long time. It can be successful if establishing a supranational European identity and the European integration process can go together. (Wang, 2009, p. 155) The European citizens'

point of view to the integration process is based on a cultural repertoire which includes knowledge, habits, stories, values, customs, memories, and worldviews. (Medrano, 2003, p. 6) After understanding the relations between national culture and the European culture, the cultural factors which affect the integration process should be examined.

The Effects of Cultural Factors on the Integration

Scholars, who are interested in the European integration process, have generally analyzed the economic, political, and informational effects of the integration. However, there has been a little exploration of cultural factors. (Nelsen, Guth & Highsmith, 2010, p. 1) A detailed analysis of the European integration process should not be made without taking into account cultural factors. (Rezanova & Volobuiev, 2010, p. 39)

The most important problem of the European integration is to find out how to cope with cultural differences. Each society has its own values and experiences on the national level. (Schlenker, 2010, p. 3) The European citizens' feelings of belonging to the EU are related to their awareness about their common heritage and values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and peace. (Wang, 2009, p. 152)

There are some internal and external cultural factors that affect the integration process. The socio-cultural issues are as numerous as European societies. The internal factors are associated with demography, religion, language, geography and history while the external ones are related to the impact of globalisation, ethnic or religious groups, immigration and also terrorism. (Robert, 2006, p. 196)

Rudolf Rezsöhazy (2007, p. 164) emphasized on the common values of the European cultural area. According to that classification, the common values are:

- The Greek-Roman civilization as a basis to form the European culture and spirit;

- The values of Christianity;

- Middle Ages and mediaeval civilization;

- Renaissance and Reform;

- Enlightenment;

- Political and industrial revolution;

- Capitalism and socialism;

- Development, progress and welfare of post-war history;

- Family as core value of our society.

The main factors which form a nation are culture, territory and history. Culture is what makes up the nation. Culture shows itself in language, religion, values and customs. Territory helps to locate the culture within specific borders. History supplies culture with a temporal dimension. (Ifversen, 2002, p. 8) In this study, the cultural factors

which are seen important in the integration process will be analyzed. Thus, the main factors are determined as common religion, common history and civilization, common geography and common language.

Common Religon

The first and foremost cultural factor is accepted as religion. Religion is one of the most important notions which help the unification of not only a nation, but also a supranational organization. For the European Union, religion means generally Christianity. (Açıkgöz, 2011, p. 60) When the Roman Empire collapsed, there was no central government to keep the order. It was the Church which united Europe under the flag of Christianity. During the Middle Ages, Christianity was the leading power in politics, law, art and learning. Christianity has been the major religion of the Europe for approximately two thousand years. It has had a significant influence on European politics and society. The Renaissance was an intellectual, cultural and political movement which lasted from the 14th to the 17th century. In Renaissance period, the European thinkers and scholars tried to get rid of conservatism in feudalist Europe and to remove the restrictions of the Roman church authorities. The Reformation movement in the 16th century led to the division of Christianity into Catholicism and Protestantism. It made the European people recover their belief in religion. (Wang, 2009, p. 153)

On the graph, it can be seen the ratios of the main EU religions with 27 members.

Figure 1: Religions of the European Union
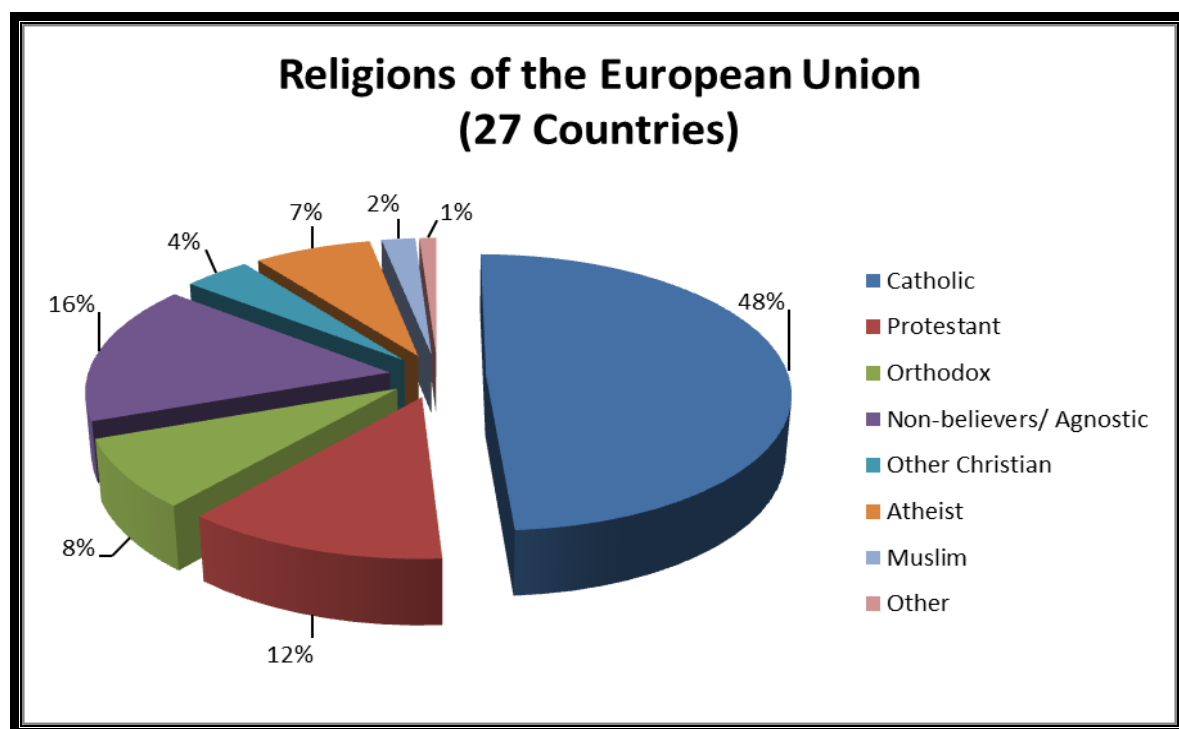
Source: Discrimination in the EU in 2012, p. 233-234.

According to the graph, %68 of the Europe united under the flag of Christianity (Catholic, Protestan and Orthodox are the major denominations of Christianity). As it is seen on the graph, nearly half of the European Union citizens are Catholic. Most of the population of Malta, Poland and Italy are Catholic. Most of the population of Greece, Romania, and Cyprus are Orthodox. Most of the population of Finland and Danmark are Protestant. %11 of the Belgium population is Muslim. %20 of the Czech Republic population is Atheist. %41 of the Netherlands and %39 of the Czech Republic population are Agnostic. (Discrimination in the EU in 2012, p. 233-234)

Migration is an important factor which influences the cultural integration process. The migration process from the outside European continent can lead to strong differentiation of lifestyles in Europe. Migration to Europe is increasing day by day, and this situation cause the formation of various ethnic and religious groups all over Europe. (Robert, 2006, p. 196-197) Ethnic minorities can be emerged either out of historical processes of nation-building, or as a result of growing international migration situation. (Schlenker, 2010, p. 3)

In sum, religion can be seen as the main cultural factor which has direct effect on the integration. A country, whose religion is not Christianity, can have difficulties during the European integration process.

Common History and Civilization

The second cultural factor which affects the European integration is to have a common history and civilization. Historical experiences are one of the most powerful unifiying notions of citizens.

The historical and cultural heritage of Europe can be traced back to ancient Greek times. The Homer's epics, the political theories in Plato and Aristotle's works, the spirits of humanism and rationalism are accepted as the inheritances left by the ancient Greek civilization. They all have influenced the development of intellectual spirit on European continent. When the Roman Empire conquered the Greece, the Greek civilization was brought to the whole western European continent. So the ancient Greek-Roman civilization became the fountainhead of the European civilization. The Hellenic culture and Roman civilization have provided the foundations for the establishment of a common European identity. (Wang, 2009, p. 153-154) This situation is suitable for the European continent, not for the EU. One of the main shared memories of the EU citizens was the Schuman declaration of 1950. Europeans are celebrating that day as "Europe Day". Thus, before 1950, there was not any common European Union historical event. Throughout the Union history, there was not so much founding moment to create a common heritage and culture. (Mayer & Palmowski, 2004, p. 580) From a historical perspective, Europe is a continent of differences which associated with strong national feelings and the idea of one nation's supremacy over others. (Wang, 2009, p. 153) The attitudes of citizens to the integration can be affected by histories of the nation which they belong to. (Medrano, 2003, p. 1)

According to historians, the reason of the complexity of European integration may be the fact that Europe has never shared a sole unifying historical experience. (Grosjean, 2011, p. 504) In order to create a culturally integrated community, there is a need for common heritage, an identity, and a conception of good life. But the EU concept does not have common traditions and habits. The boundaries are permeable; the number of the member countries and also the boundaries can change gradually. (Schlenker, 2010, p. 6) Most of the scholars agree that societies can exist only if there is an accepted system of values and habits which are legitimate on the majority of citizens. (Rezanova & Volobuiev, 2010, p. 39)

Universalism is an explanatory term which eliminates boundaries. Universal values are valid for every society. Even culture can be made universal, but there is a need for claiming universal validity of the culture and justifing a right to expansion. A way of conceptualizing a universal point of view is to see the tension between culture and civilization. According to Samuel Huntington, civilization can simply be described as a macro-culture. (Huntington 1996, p. 41) Civilization and culture are the terms which do not exclude each other. In order to be a civilization, all of the features of culture should become together. The creation of a European civilization does not denote to ignore national cultures within Europe. It must be filled out by transforming and universalizing some of the elements within the culture. (Ifversen, 2002, p. 7)

Common Geography

Cultural factors are not only related to the unity of the European civilization but also to the relation between geography and culture. Can Europe be separated from Asia? (Brie, Polgar & Chirodea, 2012, p. 10) The separation is possible according to territorial borders. But from culturally, it is a complicated situation and the European scholars give different answers to this question. Maybe the difference between the west and Europe can help to solve the problem. Europe can be accepted as a geographical rationality, whereas the West belongs more to the cultural field which based on religious dividing lines. (Ifversen, 2002, p. 9)

As a geographical concept, the meaning of Europe is certainly related in geographical terms. Generally, Europe is defined as an independent continent. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the definition of Europe is: "Second smallest of the world's continents, composed of the westward-projecting peninsulas of Eurasia (the great landmass that it shares with Asia) and occupying nearly one-fifteenth of the world's total land area." (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2015, p. 1)

The European history has taken shape with a geographical idea which developed in classical Greece, reappearing in the late Middle Ages in a version combining geography with religion and culture. (Ifversen, 2002, p. 3)

At the early times of the Union, there were only two important rules to be a member state. The former was being a democratic country; the latter was being located on the European continent. In 1993, the European Council in Copenhagen defined the

accession criteria, (or Copenhagen criteria), which determined the essential conditions that all candidate countries must satisfy to become a member state. These criteria are: (Accession Criteria, 2012, p. 1)

- Political criteria: Stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;

- Economic criteria: A functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces;

- Administrative and institutional capacity to effectively implement 'the Acquis Communitaire' and ability to take on the obligations of membership.

As we can see from the first membership criteria, geographical situation of a country was one of the most important factors. To be located on a European continent makes the transfer of culture easier between the European societies.

Common Language

The European Union has 24 official and working languages. They are "Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, and Swedish". The European Community has determined Dutch, French, German, and Italian as the official working languages of the EU. During the enlargement process, like the number of member countries, the number of the official and working languages has increased. Some members use common languages, so that there are 28 member states and 24 official languages. (Official languages of the EU, 2016, p. 1)

The main factors that unify citizens are to speak the same language and to have the same lifestyle and behavior. (Brie, Polgar & Chirodea, 2012, p. 9) Language is the real problem of the Union because it is impossible to combine the national languages with a universal one. Even though most of the citizens can speak English, there is no certain European language. The plurality of languages can cause to the deceleration of the integration process. For example, during the decision-making process, it takes much time to translate all of the rules and procedures. And also, the distribution of culture among more entities becomes difficult. (Ifversen, 2002, p. 9-10) The lack of a common language has hindered both the practical business of the EU and the popular identification of Europeans with their politicians, and with each other. (Mayer & Palmowski, 2004, p. 581)

Using a common language makes easier to share history, traditions, values and culture as well. Maybe the most intractable block to the development of a common cultural identity within the Union is that of language. (Mayer & Palmowski, 2004, p. 581)

Conclusion

The European Union is a supranational organization which has a kaleidoscopic cultural structure. This situation helps to succeed in living "unity in diversity". All of the endeavours to create a common cultural policy must be aware of this specific notion of the Union. The effects of cultural factors to the integration should not be ignored and be taken into consideration.

European identity is based on a common historical experience and a common cultural heritage. There is a common history in the European continent, which includes the ancient Greek and Roman civilization, Christianity, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. These historical events are the most important supporters of the European identity construction.

Economic and political stability were accepted as forefront objectives by the founders of the EU. However, one of the main aims of the European Union is to promote multiculturalism and compete with cultural diversity. The EU should unify the member states' different cultures and succeed in the cultural integration process. As it is understood from the study, the most important factors which make it easier to integrate are religion, history, civilization, geography and language. When all of these factors can be integrated, the EU should be more succeeded in living "unity in diversity".

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