

Mapping through experimental evidence schemes that influence sociological migration between East and West

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Abstract. *For many years the iconic figure of the EU constructed a not entirely rational image that enlargement only promises to be a snowball of growth. Although to a large extent this is true, on the background of the global economic crisis, it becomes apparent that the newly democratic Central European states are interlocked in a sort of absorption system. At the heart of this process lies the recalibration of challenges that regional and community policymakers have to face. We are witnessing the migration of challenges from West to East and from East to West. Nevertheless although this situation is most evident in the presence of anxieties around the bold EU initiatives, it is this researcher's opinion that it is not an indicator capable to question EU competence, but rather the need for a more comprehensive understanding of these challenges. Having roots of an economic bloc, the European Union sometimes forgets that with economic opportunity, also socio-demographic challenges appear. It is an imbalance between the way in which Central European countries are perceived and the reality of their confrontation with now continental challenges. EU enlargement has surged ahead but with little research upon the socio-demographic impact upon youth communities in Central European countries.*

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1. Reflections on the differences between East and West in migration terms

The European Model of integration has some fundamental democratic and economic principles. These principles must be found and applied in all the member states of the European Union. There has been a lot of debate around the European construct and the danger of loss of full cohesion due to the existence, in the classical sense, of two European regions, split by differences of economic and development growth. Central Europe through a number of initiatives has brought its own contribution to the European project, proving that it understands that as a core of values and policies meant to bring countries together and close any type of gaps. There is an economic difference between East and West which can be filled through cooperation programs in the main areas of interest for both the newly accessed countries and the European Union. Let it be no mistake, the European Union is not in its own justification, but it is a construct, under many forms, including economic, political, strategic, viable only as long as a constant interplay between the member countries exists. Admittedly, the economic discrepancy exists, but it does not place such a high pressure on the existence of the European Union, as long as other types of relationships exist.

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There is a gamble in our contemporary days. Too much emphasis on economic issues. Gambling everything on the economic card can be very dangerous, because it ignores some of the core problems that slowly eat away in any union. Its alliance is not so much economic, but rather it lies on common interest, common values and future perspectives of growth. A bond is something more than just economic links between countries, it should focus mainly on building together prosperity. Gambling everything on pure economic exchange, without building together an apparatus that produces and assures wealth as long as the countries cooperate means to destroy, along with values, that whole cooperation mode that should exist between member states. I do not want to question capitalism, as an economic existence based on profit. Most often we are used to considering capitalism as a machine that produces immediate profit and we forget that immediate profit is not that important for countries. Cooperation for future growth and constant growth is a lot more important. Although there are two distinct Europes, with different wages, different social systems and different economic performance, countries in the East can still produce even more added value to the legitimacy of the European Union, through strong cooperation. Anyone today who thinks about the problem of a rift between west and east Europe should not remain trapped in old disputes or old way of thinking and perceiving a union. What seems to be a gap between East and West must be translated and converted into a founding period for cooperation, brand new ideas and models.

What of the region of Central Europe? This has started to become a region of strength through cooperation and with some major issues concerning the European continent, also an area of contrast of public opinion. It is very interesting how this region has started to fit its interests according to the values of the European Union but has continued to preserve some of its mentality, which sometimes is beneficial in a world of permanent change and movement. In parallel to this synchronization, it is easy to notice that the European Union, in turn takes a lot more care of the problems of Central European region. This European region, which is inhabited by around sixty five million European citizens fits perfectly into the European big picture but with its own little changes, which can even strengthen the European Union or offer a model. The strengthening of bilateral ties in the region has offered growth to the region, political strength together with proper representation in the European Union and legitimacy for the European Union.

2. Future migration prospects? An evaluation of our scientific interest

The following research presents a double interest in the field of research of sociology and European studies. On the one hand we look at a database created after Romania joined the European Union. Thus, we are free to analyze in what way did the Romanian perception upon the European Union has evolved in the course of the past years? We should especially focus upon the system of values. The European Union stands for a specific set of values. Research should investigate the way in which European values meet national values. The second point of interest is that of social market economy. This concept was permanently coined through the Lisbon Treaty. It has become part of the European Union and its existence constitutionalised through that very treaty. From this point on this model becomes a symbol for the European Union's vision on development and it becomes the norm in all European countries. We have concentrated on the attitude of the citizens towards the European Union. The underlying public attitudes (Campbell 1960, Lipset 1960) play a very important part in the future development of policies.

Before going ahead with the analysis we felt the need to go into specifics regarding the term of social market economy. It refers to the model of development used by the German economy following the Second World War. It has been implemented and strictly followed in the Federal Republic of Germany after the year 1945. Muller-Armack is the inventor of this concept, seen as the

middle way between socialist planning and market economy. The point of this way was to combine the existence of a free market economy, opened to free trade and competition with the social protection offered to the citizens. On the one hand we have the advantages offered by a well functioning economic system based on freedom of action for the market forces, but coupled with the social measures able to assure social security to the citizen.

3. What qualitative data reveal about Romanian citizens

Our working hypothesis for this paper is that the Romanian citizen is a lot more willing to follow the European model of social economy. This model has been constitutionalized through the Lisbon Treaty. Our hypothesis intends to study the level of preparedness and openness towards this new type of European Union. As postulated before, we believe that the Romanian citizen is a lot more open and ready to apply and follow the European model, in comparison with the citizens of other member countries. The general attitude of the Romanian citizen towards the European model will be used to measure the level of involvement of the Romanian citizen in the European model of social economy. We believe that as a union, the European Union needs the support of its citizens to obtain legitimacy. Through a strong support it can put forward modern and innovative policies. Our hypothesis considers that the European Union receives a high level of legitimacy from the part of the Romanian citizen. The social economic model of the European Union benefits from the support of the Romanian citizen who wishes for this model to be implemented on the national territory of Romania.

We have used quantitative research. We had at our disposal the EVS database made out of data collected from 47 countries and it is considered to be representative.

We have employed the factor analysis. In completion to this method we have also used ANOVA analysis. The present study wishes to investigate the respondent's attitude towards the socio-economic model put forward by the European Union. This model is based upon a market type economy but with a social dimension. This type of market economy has as fundamental value the presence of free competition, displaying a high degree of competitiveness, mostly within the European Union. The main difficulty in this research was the fact that this attitude cannot be measured in a direct way. Because we were confronted with this barrier, it was our option to choose a set of variables which were capable of capturing the respondent's attitude towards:

1. Who is responsible for his own well being. The respondent had two choices: the individual or the state.
2. The existence of free competition.
3. The existence of private property.
4. The liberty and freedom of action that characterizes the field in which private companies act.
5. The way in which income is distributed within the society.
6. The way in which the state handles the problem of unemployment. Should the state help the unemployed or should it do less, so as to encourage people to find work.

We are expecting interesting replies. Ordinarily, one might expect that the European citizen should support the idea of free trade and free competition. Competition should exist between companies and between people. The environment for competition should be characterized by norms and codes of ethical and economic origin. Also, we consider that a person who supports the European model of social economy could consider that both the state and the individual can be held

accountable for the state of well being of a citizen. The European Union functions thanks to the existence of stakeholders in the complex relationship that is created between the Union and the citizen. The concept of assertive democratic participation demonstrates that the individual becomes a citizen because he uses his right to participate in the building of the state. Thus, both the state and the individual are equally responsible for the state of well being. A person who supports the European model supports the idea of extending private property. This is a fundamental issue promoted by the values of the European Union. Although free competition exists the purpose of the state is to prevent the appearance of monopoly type relationships. The European citizen is expected to presuppose the existence of equally distributed income. This refers to social cohesion and is yet a debated concept among the European countries. The income should be distributed into fair amounts, equitable among citizens. Regarding to the way the state tackles the problem of unemployment there are two aspects that ordinarily belong to citizens that support the European Union. Those that are unemployed should be allowed to refuse a certain, specific, state picked number of jobs. Those jobs might not be best suited to their level of education, experience, location and they should be allowed to turn down a limited number of jobs without being in danger of losing state financial support. At the same time, the unemployed should benefit from the support of the state while they try to improve their skills or try to employ themselves in the European society.

While conducting this research we took into account the neutral character of the concept used: social market economy. Research proved that this concept holds both left and rights policies, as well as social cohesion, solidarity and liberalization.

The entire set of variables is made out of ordinal variables. The categories have their own order which is imposed due to its own features. The six variables used in the study can be treated as being continuous for several reasons. The so-called distance between the selected variables is equal. Furthermore, the value scale of each of the chosen variables holds more than just three values. In this case we encounter values that range from 1 to 10. Because we have proven that the six chosen variables are continuous we are prepared to unfold the factor analysis.

We have started by pondering the database. This was considered the first step in the factor analysis. Afterwards we continued by declaring and noticing the missing values for all of the six variables used in the study. Once we have carefully run the factor analysis we have established that the variables are adequate for the analysis ($KNO=0,709 > 0,7$). Although there are variables that display smaller than 0.2 communalities we have decided to keep them on in the factor analysis. The decision was made due to the fact that the variables that were chosen measure important features of the social market economy. Furthermore we consider it essential to provide details by naming the features mentioned before. The variables research social cohesion and solidarity. In the database the two are noted using v198 and v195. The factor taken into consideration accounts for 22.3% of the variation of the variables that have been analyzed. Next we have used a test so as to conclude that we are actually talking about just one factor which can be extracted, the items being analyzed creating just one dimension, that of the attitude of the citizen towards social market economy, the model proposed by the European Union. The concentration matrix also confirms that the identified factor creates a weaker correlation with the other two variables which display smaller communalities. In detail we notice that we have a value of 0.391 for v195 and a value of <0.1 for v198.

In order to be able to construct comparisons between respondents from different countries we proceed by saving the factor resulted from the factor analysis. This factor measures the attitude of the respondents towards the economic principles, fundamental for social market economy. We proceed with the creation of the bar chart. We are ready to run the ANOVA analysis because we notice the normal distribution of the factor. We can run ANOVA analysis having as dependant

variable the newly created variable FACT1_1 and as factor the country variable. We also have handy the homogeneous test table of the variance. We have $\text{Sig.}=0,00<0,05$. It results that the variances are not equal. To better understand the process we proceed to concentrate on accuracy. For this we turn to Welch and Brown-Forsythe tests which have $\text{sig.}=0,00<0,05$. Due to these tests we are confirmed that there definitely is a great probability for the existence of differences in the environment of the newly created variance for different countries. The conclusion is that the variances are not equal. The logical step in the analysis is to turn to the re-creation of the One-Wy ANOVA analysis checking in the Post-Hoc drop down menu the Tamhane test. We notice in the ANOVA table $\text{sig.}(F)= 0,00<0,05$, which translates into the existence of a difference between at least two countries for which the average of the newly created variable significantly differs. We use the Tamhane test also to spot such situations. For this study we focused upon the difference between the perception of the Romanian citizens of the European social market economy model and that of the other citizens in the European Union. The test demonstrates that the perception of the Romanian citizen upon the European model is significantly different from countries in the West such as Belgians, French, Greeks, Italians, Spaniards. The value which indicates this is $\text{sig.}<0,05$. The results underline also a difference between the Romanian people and the opinion of individuals from non-European member countries: Russia, Serbia. At the same time the Romanian citizen has a similar opinion with the Slovenian, Albanian, Georgian citizen and with that of the German and Norwegian citizen because of the value of $\text{sig.}<0,05$.

The results of the analysis have confirmed that the attitude of the Romanian citizen towards the social market economy model backed up by the European Union is different in comparison with most of the countries in Western Europe. The Stegherr test in 2010 considered that the countries in Eastern Europe are more close to the American model. This analysis wishes to establish that although there is still a difference in perception between European countries, Eastern countries tend to offer a lot more support for the project of the European Union.

4. Conclusions upon the attitudes towards migration. Future research directions

Further research should be done regarding the attitude of the European citizens towards the social market economy model which is currently developed in the European Union. Research should be also focused upon what lies behind these attitudes for a better understanding of the European citizen. A more detailed look should be focused upon what makes a European citizen to either support or deny support to the European project.

Cooperation for future growth and constant growth is a lot more important. Although there are two distinct Europes, with different wages, different social systems and different economic performance, countries in the east can still produce even more added value to the legitimacy of the European Union, by strong cooperation. Anyone today who thinks about the problem of a rift between West and East Europe should not remain trapped in old disputes or old ways of thinking and perceiving a union. What seems to be a gap between East and West must be translated and converted into a founding period for cooperation, brand new ideas and models.

The truth is that the bilateral relations between the European countries are not yet fully developed to their full potential. It is important to point out that although it has been established that between the European countries there is an intricate web of traditional and long lasting set of values and geopolitical interests, there is still a lot of work till fulfilling the entire potential of the relations. There are still some issues that present a question mark when it comes to finding a common

response followed by an active approach. The benefits of this political practice become obvious the moment we start understanding the fact that it ensures a better position within the structures of the European Union, offering confidence. It is a very complex task to continue to shape a working and credible framework of cooperation between European countries.

Each policy that received the backing of the European citizen has been another further crucial step in building this Europe. The European Union has focused upon the values that represent both the European Union and its countries. It is important to have constant support both at the national level and the level of the individual citizen. Having to go through a harsh economic adaptation period, the European Union can use this time to consider the values behind their own system. The interesting thing in the European Union is that active cooperation anywhere in the union is both local and transnational. This union, made out of active countries, this is the ideal situation, is no longer trapped within what we can call the container of national borders, but each local action tackles a continental problem locally. For example, the main concerns of Romania: migration, energy, security, welfare, cross-border control, transportation, emigration and ethnic groups are the main problems and focus of the European Union. We are leaving behind the old Europe, with only regional problems, that manifest themselves locally, with regional players that do not seek the solution for the greater area. This is the new basis for normality. Romania and its citizens start to understand and grasp the notion that any country is potentially part of the solution. The existence of the European Union is spinning off a range of developments that may bring about far-reaching trends.

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