

# **Factors of influence and solutions to the crises affecting the European Union's cultural and economic policies**

Doina Gavrilov

PhD student

National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Romania

doina.gavrilov@yahoo.com

At the beginning, the European Community had a strictly economic nature. Over time, changes in the international system, the four freedoms and the success of economic cooperation have shown to the Member States that this cooperation deserves to be extended from strictly economic to both economic and political.

The territorial extension of the European Union, the living standard among the Member States and the success of cooperation, have motivated the internal structures of the Organization to think about an extension of the EU's areas of action, namely cultural cooperation.

Culture has become an increasingly attractive element for EU structures in the context of a federal Union for crisis resilience, coordination of foreign policy actions and action as a whole in relations with third party countries and/or other actors of the international system.

Researching the cultural field over the last decades, I see a close link between economic and cultural policy. Comparing the approaches of different authors, I observe that the European Union has a limited access to the cultural domain of the Member States, but nevertheless, it tries to promote cultural diversity and to start a process of change in this field. I classify the ways in which the European Union accesses the cultural field, as follows: a) direct: through cultural policies formulated at EU's institutional level; b) indirect: the EU attaches cultural policies (employment in culture) to the economic policies.

From the cultural point of view, I focus on the Union's evolution in this area, on current policies and their role in defining European identity.

From the perspective of the indirect access to cultural policies through economic policies I analyze them by looking at the importance of culture for the EU, the economic importance for the Member States and the link between the two areas in order to trigger a process of change in several areas.

I identify authors that support the link between the two policies and the European project such as J. Teller, E. Dumont, C. Birzea, et al., and authors that support the role of the national state and the non-involvement of the Organization in national culture ( culture- the key element in the existence of the state-nation) such as C. Shore, et al.

I observe that both the cultural and economic spheres, being interconnected, are affected mutually by crises (economic crises affect the cultural field, and crises with a cultural connotation affect the economic field).

In conclusion, I elucidate the link between the economic and cultural policies of the EU, the importance of this link and its role in triggering Europeanisation in other fields than economic and political. I manage to: identify the factors that generate the crises that affect the two areas; propose a few solutions to overcome crises; submit the themes and questions that can be investigated starting with this article.

## Keywords

cultural policies, economic policies, crises