

Cultural Identity From National To European

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Abstract— The paper aims to define culture as an economic, political and legal reality on the basis of which the EU has built values and principles, which continue to expand.

The ideas and examples presented capture Europe as a cultural realm combining uniqueness and diversity. Religious, linguistic or political differences are not boundaries between peoples, but identity markers, whose preservation and development depend on cooperation and respect for national and European cultural rules.

The paper presents the Romanian cultural identity in relation to the European identity. The coexistence of the two identities does not make one of them disappear or devalue, but, on the contrary, belonging to Romania's European identity highlights its uniqueness and benefits its citizens, opens borders and allows knowledge in all its forms.

Keywords— culture, national identity, European identity, strategies, programs

Culture, as a general notion, is a very broad and complex one and its knowledge is extremely important for any citizen because we could say that culture is, among other things, the imprint, the identity of a person, of the social group he/she belongs to. Of course, in a practical sense, culture differs from one people to another, from one century to another, being interdependent with other external factors, phenomena, processes of thought and evolution that a group of people go through over time, so it sums up everything that a society or a group of individuals manage to transmit through both material and non-material resources.

Culture is not a unitary concept applicable to all, and its protection, preservation, knowledge, promotion and enhancement are fortunately an important and by no means negligible landmark for states. This complex of culture encompassing the beliefs, art, customs and habits of a society is a legacy for future generations. For this reason, the European Union considers cultural policy to be an area of competence that belongs to each Member State, so that EU legislation protecting and preserving

this area belongs solely to the Member States, with the European Union having only supporting powers.

Culture is not limited to certain aspects, such as knowledge of historical landmarks or specific local landmarks (traditions and customs), but is the sum of all the knowledge that a person possesses in relation to all aspects of life, the widest possible range of knowledge in various fields. The culture of each Member State of the European Union is an inexhaustible wellspring of knowledge, a living water that ensures the immortality of the European cultural heritage, which is so important and essential to progress.

Culture is a concept that is present in everyday language and takes various forms: artistic, intellectual, creative, culinary, musical and dramatic activities, etc. In other words, culture encompasses the general characteristics and social orientations of different societies. According to the DEX (Romanian Explanatory Dictionary), it represents the totality of entirety and spiritual values created by mankind and the institutions necessary to communicate these values.

It can therefore be said that the notion of culture is an extremely broad one which, depending on the context used, can have various meanings and implications:

- in a historical sense, culture refers to a set of well-established traditions and customs belonging to a social group influenced by climate, level of intellectual and economic development and human values;

- in a psychological and social sense, it concerns the behaviour of the group concerned, the way it approaches various situations, the degree of cognitive, emotional and affective education, i.e. a set of behavioural activities that can be transmitted through education;

- a genetic sense, highlighting the origins and genes of a culture, e.g. plant cultures, various species of bacteria used in medical or therapeutic treatments [1].;

- a normative sense referring to the rules and norms established within a group.

All these meanings which a single notion, that of culture, can generate make it an extremely rich and not at all negligible to be approached. Over the years, various theorists, psychologists and anthropologists have tried to define culture. Ralph Linton, for example, states in one of his works that a culture is the configuration of learned behaviors and their outcomes, the components of which are shared and transmitted by members of a given society [2]. The expression of a community's way of life, cultural heritage is that which, through practices, beliefs, traditions, customs, objects, artistic values transmitted from generation to generation, forms a priceless heritage, material or immaterial, which in itself is proof of human existence and development since ancient times.

According to Geert Hofstede's definition, culture is a form of mental programming specific to each group of people or to a certain collectivity that shares the same way of life. Within this mental programming, there are four forms of manifestation that can define any culture and distinguish it from others: symbols, heroes, rituals and values. Based on a model, Hofstede shows that values are among the deepest, the core of a culture, while cultural practices, i.e. rituals, heroes and symbols are external, visible and decipherable aspects and symbols are likened as the first elements that interact and help people to get in touch with a certain culture [3].

Culture, can be defined as a set, a totality of beliefs, ideologies, faiths and values that a group of people hold and pass on to future generations. This cultural heritage is not a unitary one but, on the contrary, an extremely varied and diverse one influenced by many external factors such as the century, world economic policy or the level of education of each generation, in other words, culture means a real way of life of those living together within the same social group.

According to the Englishman Edward Burnett Tylor's definition, culture means a whole that includes knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, law, traditions and any other production and way of life created by man living in society [4].

Remarkable for its complexity, a spectacular historical evolution, European culture is an eminently universal vocation, Europe a bouquet of cultures with specific features of each civilization and geographical region ensures the exchange of ideas and values of each cultural identity [5], which can be said to live in a real symbiosis.

From the decades-long history of the EU, it can be seen that a condition of its existence, a foundation of development on all levels, is dialogue,

European cultural dialogue. European culture, which has undergone a syncretism specific to its evolution, with the known stages of gaining the prestige of scientific culture [6], represents a totality of material and spiritual values, created by mankind, preserved and enriched by each generation, culture becomes a real factor of social development, an instrument that underpins the development of a society and complements other sectors such as education, the economy, employment, tourism, social cohesion and many others.

Culture is a foundation, a base that has many roles and that draws true guidelines for the current generations, the knowledge of culture, both of one's own people and of others, synthesizes the knowledge of a person's identity, the identity of a people, without culture of any kind, the evolution and development of any sector would be fruitless, derisory.

Cultural heritage is also intangible, as opposed to material heritage, which includes creations, value systems, principles of life, values and beliefs that are intangible. This intangible heritage can be found in every culture and is represented by the symbols, language or rules of social conduct of each people. For example, in Romania the 50 lei banknote, which depicts Aurel Vlaicu as a "hero", contains symbols such as the wind rose, the lily of the valley, the cross, the fang flower and the eagle. The compass rose is a universal symbol, easily recognizable and interpreted regardless of the culture from which a person comes, this symbol refers to and conveys the idea of orientation, direction, balance and stability. The lily of the valley, a bulbous plant that has given rise to various legends and stories since ancient Greece, is a symbol of love, purity and trust that even has religious connotations, representing the Holy Trinity or the Virgin Mary, the lily of the valley being considered in direct connection with the cross. The fleur-de-lis symbol of the Carpathians and the eagle are symbols of Romania, the eagle is also present on the country's coat of arms and also creates a link with the idea of flight, a height that is therefore specific to these aviation symbols [7].

Language is not to be neglected either, the language used by a nation is the one that has an expressive role, through speech conveying information and reflecting the degree and level of knowledge of people. Communication through language can be written or verbal, shaped by specific human norms and rules that have undergone positive changes over time and evolution. Vocabulary (the totality of words belonging to a language), syntax, grammar, phonology, semantics are specific to each language. For example, in Romanian, the specificity is

given by the existence of three genders of nouns, i.e. feminine, masculine and neuter, and in a written statement the existence of a comma between subject and predicate is not admitted.

Although apparently unrelated, there is a bridge between culture and language because the cultural level of a nation and its level of development influence the way of expression and the language it possesses. Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf in the twentieth century proposed a common theory known as Sapir-Whorf which, even today, is of interest, they state that language is influenced by a person's way of perceiving the world and is therefore dependent on the culture to which they belong, so to speak. The theory of the two highlights how different words in one language can have completely different meanings in another and not every word can have a symmetrical, one-to-one translation in every language, this theory of linguistic relativity as those in the field call it has taken on a particular shape in various fields and other theories of communication and a bridge with the cultural field is created here, respect for the linguistic identity and belonging of each person, irrespective of whether or not they belong to a particular nation, is fundamental; the lack of knowledge, even at macro level, of general aspects of culture can only slow down and hinder the development of humanity and civilization [8].

Culture is a genuine fundamental right found in the area of citizens' rights and freedoms which, through its versatility, encourages the development, individual affirmation and crystallization of communities [9]. Culture is a real fortress in terms of interactions, relationships between individuals and their exchange of values, principles and ideas. For example, the famous and probably one of the biggest festivals in the world, Oktoberfest is an event held in the Bavarian capital Munich and attracts over six million tourists and visitors from all over the world every year. Oktoberfest is generally held at the end of September - beginning of October and has a tradition of more than 200 years, being held every year, with small exceptions, since 1810. The festival brings Bavarian culinary traditions to the fore, as well as Bavarian food, music and socializing [10]. Thus, through this type of cultural events, it is possible to understand that the promotion of national identity and the sharing of values specific to this culture have a great impact in terms of diversity and interpersonal communication, dialogue between people from different cultures.

Culture ensures the development and perpetuation of political and economic strategies, is an important vector of the economy and is therefore

subject to the principles and rules laid down in the Treaties of the European Union, in particular the provisions concerning freedom of movement and freedom of competition in the internal market. By opening up borders, encouraging trade and free competition, the countries of the European Union, through various projects and initiatives, are constantly stimulating economic development and increasing the competitiveness of European industries. Projects in the field of culture have a special status: they are economic goods as well as services; they are also a means of asserting their own cultural identity, which reflects and conditions the societies of the European Union [11].

The contribution of this field to the national economy of a country is remarkable, it does not only have the role of enriching citizens from a spiritual or informational point of view, but national culture, world culture is also a source of income and a producer of jobs [12].

A benchmark and an example that sums up extremely well the impact that culture has on the economy, on development from the perspective of other areas such as tourism in a country is called the "Bilbao Effect". The impressive museum of modern art in Bilbao, Spain, has since its inauguration become a fascinating place of pilgrimage, a sociological, cultural and economic phenomenon. The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, with its formidable structure and architecture, unparalleled until then, has made this place a landmark, an economic vector and a prosperous area, because since the first three years of its inauguration, tourists have spent about 10 million Euros in their visit there, leading to a massive influence on the regional economy, which in time has remained under the name "Bilbao Effect" [13].

Culture is essentially an accumulation of inherited elements. In the European Union, an increasing number of people from different nations and cultures live together, and the Union has become a framework for increased cultural interdependence, the slogan "Unity in diversity" reflecting this very well. Now, more than ever, this aspect plays a crucial role in society. The smooth functioning of the government, its global reputation, the maintenance of peace, security, the happiness, and the prosperity of its people all rely heavily on this dimension [14].

Identity is a reflection of one's origins, of the baggage of experiences, assimilated knowledge or life experiences that a person accumulates throughout his or her life. The environment we come from, the social group in which we grow up, naturally shapes our personal identity, which can include elements such as ethnicity, religion, language, as well as elements

related to the development of behaviour such as the way we understand how to socialize or how to spend our leisure time, all aspects that make up a defining whole about a person. Just as each individual has his or her own unique identity, so a group of people from the same background, united by the same historical and cultural destiny, laws, customs and habits, form a national identity specific to that community. Starting from this idea of national identity, Poland, a member of the EU, has evolved remarkably, Russian influences as well as its accession to the Union have helped to form the current, modern Polish identity because, for almost 100 years, Poland was not its own state, but one under Russian influence from which it preserved its Catholic religious identity and certain customs or ideas about the way of life. Later, its accession to the EU brought to the fore new opportunities for its integration into the community.

Identities are never unitary, and in recent modern times they are increasingly fragmented and shattered; they are never single, but constructed as multiples, based on different discourses, practices and positions, which often overlap and clash. They are always in a process of change and transformation.

All societies face recurrent threats to their existence that can destroy them. However, some societies are able to postpone their demise, halting and reversing the processes of decline, renewing their vitality and identity. I believe that America can do this, and that Americans should embrace anew the Anglo-Protestant culture, traditions, and values, which for three and a half centuries have been embraced by Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, and religion, and which have been the wellspring of their freedom, unity, strength, prosperity, and moral ascendancy as a force for good in the world.

The European Union, with its foundation in 1951, brings under the same umbrella several states with different national identities, united by common goals, ideals and principles, which may call into question the coexistence of national identities with the European identity. **The European identity** that the member countries have, and therefore its citizens, does not replace the national identity that each state has, but is a communication, an expression of the values, fundamental rights and freedoms, social, economic and legal principles, defence and security policies that they have in common. Of course, at a functional level, the identity of each citizen is reflected in nationality, i.e. the legal relationship between the citizen and the state in which he or she was born, but the notion of European identity should not be neglected either, as the idea of European citizens has brought many political, economic and social

advantages to the states that have joined the EU over the years, freedom of movement, free trade and, above all, the vast and rich transfer of information and culture are the essence of the European community, and the attachment to common values and the attachment to them, even if they cannot be achieved spontaneously by citizens, are certainly a bridge to continuous development and constant improvement of life.

The notion of European citizenship was first born in the documents of the European Council of Fontainebleau (1984) and in the meetings that the heads of state and government had to see the conditions under which the citizens of the states could have this citizenship and the rights they have. In 1990, in Dublin, the issue of citizenship was re-discussed and it was clarified that holding this citizenship does not cancel national citizenship, the identity of the person belonging to the state where he or she was born but, rather, proves that the state belongs to the EU. In this respect, the TFEU states in Article 9, "In all its activities, the Union shall observe the principle of the equality of its citizens, who shall receive equal attention from its institutions, bodies, offices and agencies. Every person who is a citizen of the Union is a national of a Member State. Citizenship of the Union does not replace national citizenship but is additional to it" [15].

The Romanian identity of the Romanian people can also be integrated in this context, as Romania, an official member of the EU since 2007, is an extremely valuable cultural and spiritual country which, despite the trials and tribulations of the past, has worthily preserved its values, symbols and national identity. With the accession to the EU, it can be said that, in addition to an extremely well-defined national identity, Romania also has a unitary, European identity that shares with the other Member States common ideas and policies aimed at a fruitful and harmonious development of the country. The coexistence of these two identities does not mean that one of them disappears or is devalued but, on the contrary, belonging to the European identity of Romania has brought many advantages to its citizens, has opened borders and has permanently allowed knowledge in all its forms.

Although modernity and the 20th century, with the establishment of the European Union, have opened the chapter of a new evolution, the Member States do not so often mention in their discussions the belonging to the European identity but rather to the national one. For example, in 2007, when Sibiu and Luxembourg were declared European Capitals of Culture [16] a study on the identity of the people was

carried out, which showed that Romanian citizens identify themselves as belonging to the Romanian nation but not as having a European identity. Thus, only 4 percent of those questioned claim to have a European identity, 33.6% say they have a Romanian identity, 27.7% identify themselves at regional level and 24.1% at local level [17].

All these aspects of identity, be it individual, national, or European, the way we perceive it and relate to it, shape issues and mark important milestones that societies have experienced. The mark of each state cannot be overshadowed and limited by the current trends and dynamics of development, unifying the cultural sector in the EU is not something that is desired, the powers of support established in the treaties, which are extremely well defined in this sense, thus leaving it up to each state, through its competent institutions how it manages this aspect. Thus protecting, promoting and the presentation of the existing cultural heritage of the Union reveals the immense wealth that we have, of which we must all enjoy and which each of us must perpetuate.

I. European Union strategies, projects, initiatives.

The cultural sector and the invaluable heritage it offers means that the level of national interest in preserving and promoting culture is also shared at EU level. According to Eurobarometer data and surveys, 88% [18] of European citizens surveyed believe that European cultural heritage should be a subject taught in schools because it teaches us about our historical and cultural identity. Even if at its beginnings, when it was timidly defined and recognized at European level, culture was not such a powerful and impactful field, time has been favorable to it (culture) which has managed to become a priority for both the States and the EU, becoming an important factor in terms of the economy, year after year, through the projects and strategies developed and elaborated it manages to ensure the promotion of a multicultural future in the context of a globalised and constantly changing world.

The cultural field is regulated by the three main players that support and help this field: the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council (Council of the European Union), which have not neglected to address this issue, so that, through specific regulations of these institutions or initiatives taken over time, they have constantly stressed the topicality and indispensability of culture at EU level.

The European Parliament, in its resolution of January 2021 [19]. in Brussels, underlines the importance of culture in the context of creating an effective political legacy for the European cultural heritage [20].

The Council of the European Union, another decision-making body at EU level, together with the Parliament, adopts legislative acts, incentive measures, recommendations or plans which are intended to provide guidelines for cooperation between the Member States and the Commission, the development of cultural policies in accordance with the Treaties and the supporting powers of the Member States. The Culture Committee prepares the work of EU culture ministers in a wide range of areas related to cultural cooperation at EU level and cooperation between EU and non-EU countries in the cultural field [21]. We recall the Creative Europe programme, the objectives of which are to safeguard, develop and promote European linguistic and cultural diversity, to promote European cultural heritage and to strengthen the competitiveness of the European cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector, objectives which cannot be satisfactorily achieved by the Member States given the transnational and international nature of the programme [22]. Another event worth mentioning is the European Capitals of Culture [23], which has acted as a catalyst for local development and cultural tourism, as outlined in the Commission Communication of 30 June 2010 entitled Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination - a new political framework for European tourism.

It is necessary to make a short leap to the regulations at the level of the Council of Europe, where culture is valued as a highly valuable asset and is regulated accordingly. The October 1985 [24] Granada Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, for example, states in its opening (Convention ratified by Romania through Law no. 157 of 7 October 1997[25]) that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members, in particular to safeguard and promote the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, recognizing that the architectural heritage is an irreplaceable expression of the richness and diversity of Europe's cultural heritage, an invaluable testimony to our past and an asset common to all Europeans [26].

Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, a joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Union, at the 4th Regional Seminar (organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the National Heritage Institute) to promote the Council of

Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention), 14-15 October 2021, held in Bucharest, underlines that this Convention is designed for the benefit of society and implemented by European citizens. It presents a framework for defining the role of civil society in the decision-making processes and management of the cultural heritage in which society operates and evolves, and also highlights three main aspects:

- The common rights and responsibilities towards cultural heritage within an integrated strategic approach;

- The role of cultural heritage as a resource for building more democratic societies and improving the living environment and quality of life;

- Links between heritage rights and human rights: everyone has the right to engage with their cultural heritage in their choice, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others [27].

In this context, the Council of the European Union Conclusions on participatory governance of cultural heritage [28] recalls and reinforces the extent of the cultural sector and its role in development. Cultural heritage thus contributes to raising awareness of cultural heritage values as a common resource, thereby reducing the risk of misuse, and to increasing social and economic benefits and calls on Member States to promote the transmission of traditional skills and knowledge from one generation to the next, as well as their innovative use and cross-fertilization through scientific and technological developments [29] and, in the Conclusions of the same Council, this time in 2018, on the need to highlight cultural heritage in all EU policies [30] recalls the role of cultural heritage in relevant national sectoral programs co-financed by the EU, in order to maintain the value and importance of cultural heritage for local populations and future generations, and to fully develop the potential of heritage as a resource for economic development, social cohesion and cultural identity; seek synergies with UNESCO and Council of Europe conventions, which set out international principles for the conservation, protection and management of cultural heritage, such as the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005).

We note that the Union supports the Member States in their cultural decisions and policies, helping them to develop in these cultural and creative fields, taking into account contemporary challenges, and that the Member States and the EU cooperate in this respect with UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) [31]. The European

Commission, one of the most important EU institutions, with overlapping competences within the institutional triangle, has no less than 42 areas of activity [32] in its portfolio, including: Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Budget, Research and Innovation, Trade, Competition, Culture and Media, Digital Economy and Society, Education and Training, Energy, EU Enlargement, Borders and Security, Justice and Fundamental Rights, Environment, Single Market, Public Health, Youth, Transport, Citizenship and others.

Culturally, the Commission's objectives are to help, support and provide access to new opportunities, markets and audience segments that enhance social cohesion in the Union, and it has over the years developed a series of cultural policies and programs to bring Europe's cultural heritage to the fore. The most prominent and impactful of these programs and policies are: Creative Europe, People-centred local approaches to EU cultural heritage, Innovation and social inclusion through culture and creativity, *Europeana* - European Heritage Exhibition, European Heritage Label and EU Action for European Capitals of Culture (2020-2033) [33].

The European Commission, through Creative Europe, underlines the breadth, the volume of objectives and the complex framework of action of the cultural field but also the need to improve it by designing the legislative frameworks to implement it. Also the allocation through the program of a budget of around €1.842 billion is encouraging for cultural dialogue and social inclusion.

The European Heritage Label was established to highlight the European cultural heritage, to enhance the European identity of citizens by referring to cultural heritage, to sites located on the territory of the Union, which helps to highlight intercultural dialogues, increases integration and historical knowledge of Europe. Awareness of this heritage not only shapes the cultural sector but also the economic and tourism sectors, the emphasis placed on the symbolic value of these heritage elements through UNESCO initiatives, draws a distinctive line with the concept of the European label [34] thus the European Heritage Label can be awarded to monuments, cultural landscapes, commemorative sites, cultural goods (e.g. the "peacock feathers' hats", an item of folk costume specific to the Bistrița-Năsăud area), intangible heritage (traditions, rituals specific to certain geographical areas), natural, underwater, archaeological and urban sites. There are, of course, specific selection procedures, which are carried out by

the EU countries, which can, for example, choose two sites within a maximum period of two years, the list is presented to a jury that chooses one site for each country and the European Commission is the one that finally designates the sites that receive the label. The first label was awarded in 2013 and they are regularly checked and monitored by the Commission, which can withdraw the label in case of non-compliance with the criteria, the implementation of projects or the established work plan. The European Heritage Label was initially an initiative of eighteen EU Member States, later it took shape and became an initiative of the Creative Europe Programme (2014-2020) and the main document governing the Label is Decision 1194/2011/EU [35] of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 establishing a European Union action for the European Heritage Label.

Europeana, another highly contemporary and realistic project in line with the social and technological changes that society has experienced in recent years due to the remarkable events that have changed the natural and common course of life and interaction between individuals, is an online cultural project that aims to facilitate access for all citizens in the presentation of cultural content, the exposure of European cultural heritage on electronic platforms, multilingual websites that connect through technology the individual with his cultural heritage. This project is intensively discussed in the Council Conclusions on the role of *Europeana* in the access, visibility and utility of European cultural heritage in the digital environment (2016/C 212/06) where it is noted that in its current form, *Europeana* is an internet platform enabling multilingual access to and distribution of digital cultural heritage held by separate cultural heritage institutions. It is also a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at creating added value both for end-users, Member States, cultural heritage institutions, research and creative re-use, and recognizes that the digital preservation of the world's cultural heritage held in European collections is important, especially in view of the destruction of cultural heritage in conflict zones and the threats to it [36]. At present, this project is accessible on the digital platform: <https://www.europeana.eu/ro>, which, according to the Conclusions mentioned above, has been improved and now represents a portal for interconnecting the citizens of the Union and beyond, a platform that shows the respect and interest that the EU and all the institutions involved in its realization give to the European identity.

Another large-scale action, extremely well received by the citizens is the European Capitals of

Culture event, which was launched in 1985 by a Greek minister, Melina Mercouri, and which until now has had a fabulous development that the EU has not neglected and has constantly pursued and improved [37]. The most recent update is Decision No 445/2014/EU [38] EU action in favor of the European Capitals of Culture event for the years 2020-2033. The action provides that each year, two Member States, mentioned in the calendar established by the Decision, and one city are awarded the honorary title of European Capital of Culture. The selection is made in stages, with a shortlist of cities being shortlisted and a final selection where the city to receive the title is designated, with the European Commission publishing the list of cities nominated as European Capitals of Culture. The designations have undergone some changes due to the global hardships that humanity has gone through in recent years, so the new changes are: 2022- Kaunas (Lithuania), Esch (Luxembourg) and Novi Sad (Serbia, candidate country); 2023- Veszprem (Hungary), Timișoara (Romania) and Elefsina (Greece); 2024-Tartu (Estonia), Bodo (Norway) and Bad Ischl (Austria); 2025-Chernitz (Germany) and Nova Gorica (Slovenia, recommended) [39].

These are just some of the projects and proposals at EU level, perhaps among the most impressive and impactful in the cultural field, each member country being responsible in turn, through specific institutions at national level to implement, realize and propose cultural strategies and projects. The EU's cooperation with UNESCO and the Council of Europe establishes cultural directions and routes and with which it organizes so many projects that bring together and complement collective efforts to increase dialogue and knowledge in this field, and which constitute a plus in education and even quality of life by presenting a wide range of perspectives, ideas and concepts on issues relating to the development of culture. True ambassadors of culture, these EU institutions are constantly and persuasively succeeding, through all the policies and projects they present to the Member States, other guardians and guardians of national and European cultural identity, in highlighting in the most original, innovative and at the same time up-to-date and adapted to reality, ways of knowing, developing, promoting and defending this area.

Conclusions

Cultural diversity and richness is based on the multitude of social groups, civilizations and societies belonging to the most diverse times and conditions of evolution, the policy of the cultural field coming to

meet these social groups, highlighting the sense of European belonging through all the historical, artistic events that have as their foundation the identity of each state. Intercultural communication and dialogue is vital, cooperation between states and the support provided by the EU amplify and strengthen the notion of democracy. The exchange of ideas and opinions of people from different cultures without respect can have a negative impact, which is why understanding each other's needs, perspectives and opinions has made it necessary to create and build an area such as culture on the EU's agenda, with the EU's support powers.

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Roma, Slovaks and Ukrainians, a multitude of cultures that bring dynamism to the city. On 31 December 2006 and 1 January 2007 the New Year was celebrated with music, light, dance and fireworks, marking at the same time Romania's accession to the European Union and the official opening of the 2007 European Capital of Culture program. Sibiu's Capital of Culture projects include: architecture, literature, mobility, visual arts and heritage; available online at: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+IM-PRESS+20070125STO02408+0+DOC+XML+V0//RO>, page accessed on 18.06.2023.

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1. The EP believes that cultural heritage is an invaluable resource that allows us to reflect, including critically, on history and helps us to identify not only different memories but also the common threads that unite us all, thus promoting diversity, dialogue, cohesion, solidarity and mutual understanding, as well as enriching knowledge of our tangible, intangible, natural and digital assets;
 2. The EP recognizes the role of cultural heritage in promoting creativity, innovation and sustainability and in developing intellectual capacities; considers that cultural heritage can also be a source of inspiration and enjoyment and can contribute to recreational activities;
 3. EP urges the Commission and the Member States to take more action to protect, develop and promote linguistic diversity in the digital age and by allocating a sufficient budget to policies dealing with languages classified as endangered and to raising awareness among EU citizens of the linguistic and cultural richness that these communities represent.
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