

THE PERCEPTION OF THE ROMANIAN COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARD THE NATIONAL AND THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY

Monica Liana Secui *
University of Oradea
Romania

Delia Iuliana Bîrle **
University of Oradea
Romania

Ioana Raluca Panc ***
"Titu Maiorescu" University
Romania

Abstract

Countries that are EU members are facing similar challenges in different stages after the moment of accession, one of those challenges is, for sure, the new European identity of the citizens from the new enrolled country. This study aims to identify the attitudes toward European Union, the relation between the national and European identities and the positive/negative presumed consequences of Romania's EU integration. Also, the optimism was considered an important variable in the equation of Romanian students' decision to study in another EU country. The data were collected from 120 high school and college students. The results show a strong relation between the positive/negative perceived consequences of the country's EU integration and the association happiness-EU and fear-EU. This perception, together with the level of optimism, is also an important factor considered by the young citizens in their decision to study in the country of origin or in another EU country. Both cognitive and emotional components of the attitudes of young citizens toward the EU have to be considered when the national-European identities are analyzed.

Keywords: European identity; national identity; optimism; study abroad

Received
September 2018

Accepted
November 2018

* Associate professor, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of Oradea, Romania; E-mail: monlias@yahoo.com

** Associate professor, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of Oradea, Romania; E-mail: delia.birle@gmail.com

*** Associate professor, PhD, "Titu Maiorescu" University, Bucharest, Romania; E-mail: ioana.panc@prof.utm.ro

The authors equally contributed to the development and review of the manuscript.