

# **Methodology for EU in Depth: European Identity, Cultural Diversity and Political Change**

**Some ideas and considerations**

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# The main objectives of the project are set as follow:

- a) to identify the borders of Europe by perception of European and Russian, Ukrainian sides;
- b) to observe the phenomena of European identity in EU and non EU-countries (Russia, Moldova);
- c) to investigate the issue of cultural security in multiethnic European region, spreading the output of the research on the both European and international level

# **The conditions that might be considered as important independent variables during research:**

- European Union as a source of territorial, political, economical and cultural division or unity in Europe
- European identity and EU identity
- Local/regional identity vis-à-vis nation-state identity
- Multicultural policy in multiethnic societies
- Third countries and inner migration

# The INTUNE Project - Integrated and United: A Quest for Citizenship in an Ever Closer Europe

This project could serve as *a point of departure* for building our project methodology and approach.

It had as its main focus an examination of how integration and decentralization processes, at both the national and European level, are affecting three major dimensions of citizenship: identity, representation, and scope of governance. It looked, in particular, at the relationships between political, social and economic elites, the general public, policy experts and the media, whose interactions nurture the dynamics of collective political identity, political legitimacy, representation, and standards of performance.

URL:

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/category/academic/series/politics/intune.do>

**The clear difference of our project is a variation of consortium members that represent four possible relations with EU:**

- member states;
- association-agreement country;
- non-yet-associated country;
- non-associated country with wide representation of a capital and regions

# COMPLEX APPROACH

§ **Complex approach** will be use to study European and EU identity with *quantitative* and *qualitative* methods based on previous **studies of regional identity in Siberia** conducted by social anthropologists and historians.

§ **Complex approach** includes several important parameters that have not automatically causal connection.

# ***PARAMETERS* of the research are:**

- 1) *to select attributes that are essential/important for European identity*, what will allow providing short description of the essence of the identity.
  - *a comparison with significant/important others; and it changes over time and territory (chronotop of M. Bachtin) (хронотоп М. Бахтина).*
  - *a constant change of academic and public attitudes towards what is essential of European identity. (Kockel, 2010)*

# ***PARAMETERS* of the research**

*2) to define structure of identity with its main elements*



# *3) to define factors that influence formation of identity and its transformation*

## *Objective factors*

- Territory and locations;
- Demographic dynamics including internal and external migration;
- Economic dynamics;
- Ethnic and religious composition of population;
- Social and cultural features of the society including social structure of the regions; educational level; culturally significant objects and their locations etc.;
- Volume of historical memory including knowledge of the region development, its role in world civilization, heroic history etc.

## *Subjective factors*

- Reflection/thinking/interpretation by stakeholders on aforementioned factors and features of being;
- Function of special institutions that are able to transform ideas into the stable practices, their legitimation, and finally turning into the resource and capital (brand).

We propose to focus on following **means/ways of identity formation** during surveys or interviews:

- *Personal experience /encounter* (tourism, academic and business activities);
- *Places and symbols* in Russian and European cities (cafes, restaurants of European cuisine, cultural and linguistic centers, memorials, etc);
- *Places and symbols in virtual space* (Runet, regional media, social networks etc.)

4) to agree on *what functions* European identity serves or could serve at whole or in connection to other forms of identity

- *Social orientation or ideology* including values;
- *Integration/solidarity*;
- *Socialization* (cultural, economic etc.);
- *Identification*;
- *Neutralization*;
- *Pragmatic function*.

The research will combine **quantitative** and **qualitative** methods and will produce several *comparisons*:

**A) REGIONAL / COUNTRY DIMENSION:**

- Russia and Europe at whole;
- Moldova and Russia;
- Moldova and European countries;
- Russian regions (Moscow, Krasnodar region, Perm region, Tomsk region and possibly other Siberian regions (Irkutsk, Tyumen, Kemerovo, Barnaul), Udmurtiya, Voronezh region);
- European countries ( Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, UK).

**B) SOCIAL DIMENSION through surveys among following groups of respondents:**

- regional elites (politicians, business, media, public and cultural leaders);
- students and university lecturers;
- Europeans who live, work and study in Russian regions, as a groups that could be considered as actively reflecting on their own identity and on the host society;
- representatives of European diasporas living in Russian regions.