Active Citizenship and Political Socialization for the Members of the Pupils’ County Council from Cluj

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SUMMARY

Our study focused on the operationalization of the main common concepts from Audigier Model, Civitas, Velhuis’ study on the active citizenship, the democratic mechanisms and values from Dîncu’s study (1999) on the political universe of the pupils. The Case studies with students from the Pupils’ County Council, is concerned the assessment of civic culture perspective on: Kohlberg moral development of political culture in the terms of developmental stages, Marcia (1966) of his political identity, and the possibilities of involvement in a political career based on the social learning theory of Krumboltz (1996). Political socialization is integrated in the general process of the human socialization, they share a common repertoire of socialization factors, mechanisms and agents of socialization.

At a specific level, political socialization differs in comparison with the general one only by the dominance of the political content over the social one. The concept of citizenship is a cultural and historical construct. Citizenship is assimilated by all the individuals in a society, through a political socialization process or through civic education. They are equal regarding the rights and obligations abiding and it is based on the affiliation to the community and also on the individual’s loyalty to the culture he lives in. The questionnaire was a semi-structured one, collectively administrated to 7 members of the County Council of the Pupils, referring to 5 themes from different domains of the social and political life of a society. Those domains were: self-perception and political participation, confidence/protest/rights identity, and minorities. The interview was carried out using a digital voice recorder, and it is kept in a MP3 format in my personal archives. After recording the interview, I transcribed it, and I interpreted its results. The method used in the first part of the research was the method of the sociological survey, and in the second part of the research I used the case study for 7 members of the County Council of the Pupils from the Cluj County. The profile obtained from Kohlberg’s evaluation of the moral development level and from Marcia’s maturity of the political identity can help us join a certain typology of Janosky’s active citizenship (active, passive, cynical) or that referring to the type of involvement relationships which refer to formal or informal activities of the community, elaborated by Putnam (smoozers and machers), but it can also help with the identification of the type of culture: political (participative, paternalistic) and civic (“rationalist-active”), according to Almond and Verba. This kind of evaluation is also useful to the career counselor who can offer advice in orienting the pupils to study politics.

Keywords: socialization factors, self-perception, profile, evaluation.