

Cultural Resilience in the Context of Migration

Cristina GELAN
“Ovidius” University

Abstract

As a result of the globalization process and in the context of extent that has got the phenomenon of migration, the interactions between people belonging to different cultures and civilizations are becoming more and more numerous. These differences involve the risk of some animosity or some conflictual relationships that can be dimmed by a form of intercultural communication, involving mutual recognition of values, traditions, worldviews and existence, which means we are talking about a form of cultural plurality. The paper that we propose aims an analysis on the phenomenon of cross-cultural validation. This phenomenon is closely connected with the question of cultural identity and the possibility of acceptance of other cultures. Beyond the ethical perspective of such an approach, to consider a number of sociological variables, such as ethnicity, culture, language, religion or spirituality, which plays a key role in understanding the concept of cultural resilience.

Keywords

migration, cultural plurality, cross-cultural validation, cultural identity, cultural resilience

1. Otherness and cultural resilience

The concept of *resilience* originates from French word *résilience*, which is derived from the Latin word *resilio* and signifies *jump back up and after an impact with an obstacle*. The first sense of the term we meet in physics, it appears the sense of *ownership metals resistance to shock and return to its original state*. Later the term has acquired multiple connotations in areas such as economics, computer science, biology, politics and psychology.

Al Siebert defines resilience as a human ability. Al. Siebert explains the concept of *resilience* as the capacity of a person to recover from life experiences overwhelming. Thus, *being resilient* means: the ability to successfully cope with continuous changes and major; the ability to retention health and energy in situations of constant pressure; the ability to rapid restoration capability after failures; ability to overcome adversity; ability to find a new way to work and live when the old one is no longer possible; or the ability to do all this without acting in a manner destructive or dysfunctional.

Beyond the psychological implications of the concept, the meaning that I want to retrieve the paper is closely connected with the idea of culture and the implications that their determinations of a culture or other influences relationships. Thus, we must take into account the concept of *cultural resilience*, understood as the capacity of the individual to recover cultural identity after a strong stress caused by various causes, such as various types of discrimination, wars, natural

disasters or political persecution. In this context and in the context of cases facing Europe, this paper will provide an analysis of the migration issue closely related to the idea of cultural resilience.

When we consider the phenomenon of migration is necessary to distinguish between *emigrants* and *immigrants*. If the emigrant is a person who leaves his home to settle permanently in another country, the immigrant is a person who entered the country of destination and which is established there. In this context, a person resilient is the person who has the ability to successfully cope with problematic situations, such as ongoing changes and major, constant pressure, setbacks, adversity and lack of tolerance, change in lifestyle, without acting in her destructive or dysfunctional manner by mastering emotions and negative emotions (ire, sadness, anger, disappointment, loss) without being overwhelmed by them.

In this context we talk about a cultural resilience of immigrant. Thus, migration from areas affected by war, political persecution or natural disasters have multiple follow, and people who have faced such situations developing a greater degree of adaptability or less where enterprises must integrate another society. The opportunities relatively limited of social and economic integration for migrants offered by the receiving countries, destabilizing the economy of destination countries, actions of transnational organized crime and terrorism, xenophobic and racial hatred or violence are most important to highlight of the consequences that can cause the phenomenon migration, some of them being felt predominantly of the migrant or refugee, other of the citizens of the countries of destination. These consequences are the result of cultural and civilizational differences between individuals and the possibilities of perception of *otherness*. In this regard, S. Huntington in "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order" believes that the fact that the real conflict is one that arises between cultures and civilizations, this being actually the last phase of evolution conflicts in the modern world (Huntington 1998).

Huntington argued that the post-Cold War world, the most important distinctions between people are not ideological, political or economic, but also cultural. So, while the nation states remain the main unit of analysis in international affairs, their behavior will not be decisively influenced of the pursuit of power and wealth, as it might seem at first glance, but of the preferences and cultural similarities and differences. For the purpose of Huntington civilization is the broadest level of recognition that a person can be identified, one that refers to values, social norms and institutions that manage a society. The main cultures, such as: Western, Eastern Orthodox or Islamic in their current power struggle with faith, based and religious dogma, acute conflicts between countries and cultures.

Or, currently in Europe, migration brings with it changes in the values and in the cultural perceptions caused by experiences of migration. Thus, migration practices reported to the idea of cultural resilience, can transform into behavioral repertoires of reference that guides and motivates choices social actors, creating a "culture of migration" (Massey, Arango, Hugo, Kouaouci, Pellegrino, Taylor 1993: 431- 466). The most important features that should embrace a culture of migration

target: imports resulting from migration, the valuation of migration, patterns of adaptation and assumption of changes involved of the migration practices and their positive valuation.

In a sociological approach the effects of migration should be examined from three perspectives: the effects of migration on the country of origin, on the population of the country of destination and on the migrants themselves. Migration focuses around his ample social phenomena, which is why the phenomenon is of great importance both to the security of the country of destination and origin, and so to the security of human individuals involved in this phenomenon. When we refer to the issue of security must, however, understand that "migration can be both cause of security problems as a consequence of their" (Sarcinschi 2008: 11).

2. The phenomenon of migration in a globalized world

The intersection of migration with political, military and cultural power causes global or regional models showing problems in terms of adaptability: of the migrant in the destination country and of the citizens of the country of destination regarding the acceptance of migrants. Thus, structuring and layering global social relationships and social transactions is generating transcontinental or interregional flows and networks of activity, interaction and exercise of power (Held, McGrew, Goldblatt, Perraton 2004: 51-52).

Mobility flows, which get the large scale in the past two years causes changes both in destination countries and in the originating. Among them one is very important and this being the subject of this paper: the issue of admission of immigrants. This problem is analyzed in terms of the implications it brings to install populations of other cultural traditions and political rights in a particular space. This phenomenon challenge the process of national integration and determines policy makers to lead a policy that control and mitigate the forms of differentiation introduced inevitably by foreign populations placed permanently in a country. These measures may cause social unrest and disrupt into society receipt the regime of subjecting the natives. In this context, resilience is the ability of both the migrants and the receiving community members. For both migrants and the receiving community have an identity based on ethnic-cultural-national symbiosis, which differentiate and exclude and can lead to identity crisis. On the one hand, community members welcoming want the policies aimed at receiving migrants should not change markedly their lifestyle and does not affect them significantly, on the other hand, migrants, marked by their ethnic, cultural and national identity, they want to be integrated and to be respected the fundamental rights and freedoms, as they perceive them through the differentiations that customizes its own way of thinking and living.

Multi-ethnicity, living together in the same territory of several people from different countries of origin, is one of the phenomena associated with globalization. Many countries on the European continent have gained, while a multiethnic character, in that they incorporated gradually communities of non-European immigrants, and especially unassimilable. Thus, under the impact of migration, the nation-state autonomy was redefined. The very concepts of *citizenship* and *national*

identity have acquired new connotations in the context in which it is promoted increasingly more idea of multiculturalism (Sinescu & Trofin 2009: 14). Western European states, including communities of non-European immigrants, is characterized by a diverse multiethnic. Multiethnic diversity not just restricted to the boundaries of Western Europe. Japan, for instance, for the first time includes significant communities of foreigners and America returning to unprecedented levels of foreign population of peak migration time from pre-war years. As a result, the ability of the advanced capitalist countries to control their borders and to monitor population is no longer appropriate to the requirements. International cooperation fails to facilitate these requirements. Moreover, the notion of "citizenship" and "national identity" are renegotiated in response to contemporary patterns of global migration and cultural globalization.

Currently, migration is one of the most sensitive issues on the European agenda, with implications that brings humanitarian and the challenges they bring of EU policies and of the management of the European space. "Alongside the serious security situation in the eastern neighborhood, this challenge will demonstrate the extent of European solidarity and commitment in defending the principles and values of the European Union" (Sămărtinean 2015).

Migration can be voluntary or involuntary. We are talking about voluntary migration in the context in which a person or a group of people are turning to other countries than their own, seeking better opportunities in terms of economic, a professional superior environment or roadways wider family, culture or religion. On the other hand, involuntary migration or forced migration occurs in a context where some people want to escape to the horrors of war, the consequences of natural disasters or political persecution. In this respect, we talk about two categories of migrants, namely *refugees* and *asylum seekers*. The refugees are people leaving the country of origin because of persecution or fear they will be persecuted on grounds of race, nationality, religion, membership in a particular social or political group¹⁷. Asylum seekers are people who have left their home country and who have applied for recognition as refugees in another country and expects a decision in this regard. Most of the countries of origin for refugees and asylum seekers are those with oppressive political regimes or social and economic problems that affect the security of individuals. The fleeing of the chronic discrimination, however, is not always a reason for granting refugee status. International rules require states whose borders they come refugee to accept them. War refugees or those who have abandoned their homes in natural disasters are housed in specially designated camps until they can return to places of origin. Sometimes their stay in the country where they took refuge can take a long time. As it concerns political refugees, they may be granted asylum in state chosen by them (Sinescu & Trofin, 2009: 16).

If we relate to involuntary migration, one of the issues that are attractive is linked to security area where the refugees found. Environmental issues and

¹⁷ Under the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967).

humanitarian disasters arising from military conflicts generates vulnerabilities and migration of a large number of people in war-affected areas to other non-conflict areas may follow as well: destabilization of the economy of the country of destination, facilitating actions of transnational organized crime and terrorism, emergence of feelings of xenophobia and racial hatred or violence (Sarcinschi 2008: 5).

One of the consequences of globalization is ample movements of the human forces, goods and capital in the international arena. We talk about migration. Although this seems to manifest since antiquity - in all major cities and empires of antiquity lived people coming from places very remote from each other, currently this phenomenon occurs with surprising intensity and in specific forms of the current international context. The phenomenon of migration which has seen great amplitude in recent, has become a topic of public and economic analysis also shed while representing a point of interest for entrepreneurs visionaries and decision makers.

United Nations Population Fund, the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every child birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled, that started working in 1969, believes that international migration is motivated one of the following:

- Searching for a better life for the individual and his family;
- Income disparities between different areas and within the same region;
- Migration policies of the countries of origin and destination;
- Political conflicts that drives migration across the border and movements within the same country;
- Environmental degradation, including the loss of farmland, forests and grasslands (so-called "refugees of the environment");
- Searching for a better paid job through migration of intellectuals from developing countries to fill gaps labor industrialized countries - so-called "exodus of professionals" (International Migration: Human Rights and Dialogue, 2006).

Migration affects both those who migrate and natives geographical space in which immigrants are found. Consequences of migration can be economic, social and psychological. Encompassing various demographic phenomena, migration movements involving voluntary or involuntary, both peaceful as aggressive. Thus, in countries receiving migrant it may cause serious social conflicts, which may even lead to the emergence of extremist ideologies. It should be noted that "not only political conflicts causes of refugee flows, but also refugees can create political conflicts" (Sarcinschi 2008: 24). Thus, on the one hand, through refugee status of individuals, the country of destination recognizes that the home country has a political regime that practice persecution and oppression, which causes tension between the two actors. On the other hand, refugees can create security concerns in countries of destination through hiring the opposition movement against governments of originating country or even transnational terrorist networks (Sarcinschi 2008: 24). Also, massive refugee flows can damage the environment by building camps lacking the necessary health infrastructure (Sarcinschi 2008: 25). Or, the presence of refugees affecting environmental resources through massive deforestation, soil erosion, destruction of wildlife,

biodiversity depletion, water contamination, excessive land cultivation (Toepfer 2005: 1).

3. Migration, social identity and resilience

The phenomenon of migration has an impact on social identity of individuals, whether citizens of the country of destination, be they immigrants. Social identity refers to "the concept of the individual's own ego in terms of features of the social category of belonging, makes his ego interchangeably with ego of other members of the in-group's and distinct from ego members outgroup in terms of stereotypes" (Sarcinschi 2008: 26). Belonging to a particular social category determines attitudes and involves behavioral aspects, closely related to *psychosocial representation of the other*. Among these are: ethnocentrism, bias favoring the in-group's and its cohesion, intergroup competition, discrimination, stereotyping, prejudice, behavioral uniformity, conformity. Illustrative of this is a survey conducted in 2002 among Muslims in the UK, which revealed that a 41% of respondents who were aged under 35 and one-third of respondents over 35, stated that " they feel only Muslims and not feel British and Muslim" (Sinescu & Trofin 2009: 17).

There are situations where migration and refugee flows are generated by ethnic conflict and ethnic cleansing policies seeking cultural homogeneity achieve a given territory or dominance by a particular ethnic minority. On the other hand, there are situations in which a stream of immigrants is often represented as a potential threat to the culture of the country of destination and a challenge to basic values and its cultural and linguistic habits. An example of this can be considered the former Yugoslavia, whose teasing spawned several refugee flows to neighboring countries, including representatives of the Roma community (ethnic minority which is centuries into poverty and social discrimination) and Bosnian and Albanians (who have become a factor of instability, whereas among them there were also members of groups of organized crime) (Sinescu & Trofin 2009: 17).

Within the context of the implications that migration generates both the inhabitants of the country of destination and the people who immigrate, one of the main problems is that of retaining the attention is about the security environment. Some specialized analysis carried out lately highlighted that respect citizens' rights and freedoms promoted by Western societies, was an issue long speculated that threaten the democratic system of values (Stoica 2009: 52-53). The proselytism that anarchist or terrorist groups carried him among refugees can generate serious security problems in the countries of destination. Limited opportunities for social and economic integration offered to refugees in destination countries, lack a sense of belonging to, the feeling of humiliation and the inability to adapt in a society perceived as foreign, they all lead to the birth of forms of radicalism. These forms can manifest in different aspects, among the most serious of them being the acts of terrorism committed against civilians. Free movement makes trafficking in chemical, biological or nuclear weapons to be easy.

The belief in "the miracle of faith" is sometimes the engine that leads refugees who can't adapt to the society which has received. An illustrative example

in this regard is the case of Muslim immigrants, who, having benefited from various programs of assimilation thought of European societies, Christian majority to which they have immigrated, contrary to expectations, they staged action radicals, who have endorsed citizens mainly civilians. It thus appears that the assimilationist actions and gestures contributed to the widening of Islamic radicalization. Terrorist forms of manifestation of Muslim groups in Western Europe based on resentment of Muslims against Western, whom they consider responsible for personal failures. Such we talk about the psychological and religious Islamic terrorism. For Islamic fundamentalists, they recruit the mostly followers of the middle class, presenting to them as defenders of interpreting traditional "holy books" against "re-interpretation of metaphorical, symbolic, social, functional that aim to transform religion in order to be better assimilated modern spirit " (Frunză 2003: 134). The leaders of these groups are good psychologists and they have a great persuasive force by the community and managed through simple messages to manipulate those from disadvantaged social categories or have a poor education.

Within the context of terrorist events that have marked the European area, the European Council adopted a strategy to combat terrorism which sets the framework for preventing radicalization and recruitment, to protect citizens and infrastructure, pursuing and investigating terrorists and to respond better to limit the consequences of terrorist attacks.

In 2015, Europe was faced with a siege of Muslim migrants. About 160,000 migrants arrived to September the mainland have made serious issues regarding Euro-Atlantic security and stability, taking into account that Muslims asylum seekers would learn and jihadists. In the face of this siege, the European Union adopted the strategy division of migrants, setting mandatory quotas for numbers and almost every country. But not all EU countries have agreed to receive immigrants. For example, mandatory quotas of refugees have been refused in September 2015 by President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis.

According to a report published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in the middle of 2015, the 160,000 refugees were only *the preface to an era of refugees*. It was estimated that about 400,000 refugees are expected to arrive in Europe after they cross the Mediterranean by the end of 2015, while another 450,000 would come to Europe in 2016. The influx of refugees from Africa and the Middle East due to the wars of Syria and Libya are the subject of extensive geopolitical debate, that questions around ideas: is this influx of immigrants an historical accident that catches the European Union in an unprepared situation or there is an invasion programmed and packaged in emotional handling aiming to strike at the foundations of the European Union.

The proposal of European Commission in terms of managing the refugee crisis has divided Europe, still reeling from the economic and financial crisis of recent years and experiencing a crisis linked to the security of its external borders, in close connection with fundamental rights which it assumed internationally on receiving refugees from North Africa. Several states have declared against the number of refugees set by the European Commission, although others argued that it is right to respect the decisions of the European Commission. Beyond the refugee

quotas proposed for each country, a number of proposals on how to integrate immigrants has aroused controversy in the European Union countries. For example, the President of European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker urging that immigrants have the right to work during the processing of their asylum applications, to be able to apply for refugee status and the European Union to engage in the resolution of the conflict in Syria and Iraq. In a resolution voted by the European Parliament, there was talk of bringing of some amendments to the Visa Code of the European Union and MEPs demanded proper implementation of the Common European Asylum System, to ensure that consistent standards and human applies in the European Union. Moreover, there was talk about sanctions on the countries that do not correctly apply the EU asylum policy.

Another important aspect to be taken into consideration when we talking about waves of migrants are the safety of the destination areas, for any humanitarian crisis that requires human mass movements raises a security issue. Waves of immigrants who came through Spain, Italy and Greece have seriously considered the ability to protect the external borders of the European Union. The tracks of immigrants who came from Morocco to Spain, from Libya and North Africa to Italy or the route Syria - Turkey - Greece showed weaknesses on the ability to record and fingerprint refugees, as required by asylum policy. However, three countries - Spain, Italy and Greece - are all members of Schengen and time has proved that they had problems for years regarding the application of Community law. In this respect, at one time, under pressure from waves of refugees, there were even concerns that the inability of some Member States to control migration could be ask de question to temporarily suspend the Schengen Agreement and to restore the internal border controls.

In October 2015, the Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic in the annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York launch a call to organize an international forum on the refugee crisis, which he it qualifies as the biggest current challenge: "the humanitarian disaster facing the world today is just a consequence of the crisis shaking Syria for four years in the absence of adequate response from the international community" (Nikolic 2015).

During 11 - 12 November 2015, at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, in Valletta held an international summit to discuss issues related to migration with African countries and other key-countries concerned. The European Union was represented by Donald Tusk, the President of European Council and by Jean-Claude Juncker, the President of European Commission. The summit brought together heads of state and government of EU and Africa in an effort to strengthen cooperation on migration and to tackle the challenges and opportunities arising from this issue. The conference was based on cooperation processes between Europe and Africa, especially the Rabat Process and the Khartoum Process that regarding migration and the EU-Africa dialogue on migration and mobility.

The debate around the issue of migration conducted revealed that migration is a shared responsibility of countries of origin, transit and destination. In this context, the EU and Africa have acted in a spirit of partnership to find common solutions to challenges of mutual interest. Thus, the leaders who participated in the

summit adopted a political declaration and a plan of action refers to: addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; enhancing cooperation on legal migration and mobility; strengthening the protection of migrants and asylum seekers; preventing and combating illegal migration, the introduction of illegal migrants and human trafficking; closer collaboration to improve cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration (Valletta Summit on Migration 2015). It was agreed also on a list of 16 concrete actions to be implemented by the end of 2016 on this issue. It was also officially launched the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa for stability and to address the root causes of irregular migration and displacement of people in Africa, which will provide additional funding to support the implementation of the action plan.

If the first reaction of the European Union on the wave of African migrants has been to try their integration in EU, test accompanied by a series of measures hasty that the EU take in haste, after the EU decided to address the problem refugees differently, namely: either to send backtracked, unless they are the victims of conflicts that their life-threatening, or to "discourage" their arrival in EU. Measures have been taken to discourage the wave of migrants coming to Europe had to consider allocating extra money for the development of African states. In this regard, the President of European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, announced the launch of emergency of Emergency Trust Fund of the European Union to tackle the root causes of illegal migration from Africa. This Fund consisted of 1.8 billion euros, a sum that came from the EU budget and contributions from the Member States and other donors (such as Norway and Switzerland).

At the EU - Africa summit held in Malta were raised disagreements between the EU and the African Union, which appeared in the issue of returns and relapsed. In this context, the European Union undertook with more funds allocated to the African Union, the condition being that migrants to stay at home. This was in the context in which there were estimates of the European Commission regarding migration, that by 2017, about three million refugees and migrants could arrive in Europe.

The main causes that have determined the migrations crisis in two years remaining the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa. Thus, the war in Syria has turned 4.9 million people into refugees and 6.6 million were resettled within the borders. In Iraq, the bombing led resettlement in other areas of the country of 4.4 million people and more than 250,000 have become refugees. Yemen's civil war, which began in March 2015 led to the displacement within the borders of 25 million people, and the violence in Libya have forced half a million people to abandon their homes. According to the UN report (2016), more than half of the refugees come from just three countries: Syria (4.9 million people), Afghanistan (2.7 million people) and Somalia (1.1 million people). Other 5.2 million people are registered with UNRWA, the UN agency in charge specially of Palestinian refugees. The figures of the study shows that in Colombia, where armed conflict has existed for decades, recorded the highest number of refugees resettled within the borders of the country (6.9 million people). This state is followed by Syria, with 6.6 million personnel and Iraq with 4.4 million people.

4. Conclusion

Migration is an international phenomenon that influenced and in turn influences all dimensions of security. The study is an analysis made, in particular the psychosocial dimension of security. In this regard, an important role goes to the representation that the citizens of the destination country forms about immigrants, asylum seekers or refugees, largely because it determines the action taken or against their, respective the attitudes towards them. Attitudes can create tensions, crises and even conflicts between both parties, contributing to the developmental of a particular psychosocial environment determined by economic, social, political, military and even green aspects. In this context, the question that arises is adapting to psychosocial climate created, both of the immigrant and citizen of the country of destination. The degree of adaptability is based, on the one hand to the ability to be resilient to each individual in a position to deal with problematic situations of adaptability, and on the other hand the level of cultural resilience that we encounter in the country of destination. Cultural resilience of the immigrant should have the right foundation the recognition of cultural plurality, accepting every cultural identities and cross-cultural validation.

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