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The European Union and the challenges for social work

Main goal:

The main goal of this paper is to analyse how the (DL) distance learning's thematic about "Demographic change and generation" affects, according to the main topic of my research, the process of construction and integration of a common European identity.

Abstract:

As I wrote in the first abstract about my general research, "the process by which an institution constructs itself go through the "bureaucracy-sation" of the education of its citizens. The anthropological literature on the topic put in evidence how an imagined community (Anderson. 1991) is constructed by an imposition of certain models of thought and behaviour transmitted by media and educational institutes managed from the State or, anyway, ruled by it.

Even the European union has to work on these processes, to be able to construct an own specific identity and transmit it to its citizens.

Moreover, the european institutions have to mediate among the different national policies, identities and cultures".

In the readings of DL and in the discussion on the forum emerged how there are differences in considering the problems related to social policy. There still are so many differences at national levels that, as the recent referendum in Ireland showed, constitute an obstacle to the process of European identity.

The reading about "Cross-national Picture of European Poverty Measured by Regional, National and European Standards" shows exactly the difficulties to choose benchmark and standard indicators for a statistical analysis.

How can the EU elaborate a common social policy if every single members still keeps its own specificity? Is it possible to delete these differences?

Social policy has to face the specific condition of living of the part of population identified as "poor", more, the models of living in society are different, as the study about "Becoming an adult in Europe" (Billari, 2004) shows.

From EU point of view the challenge is to find the way to elaborate actions of social intervention. We cannot talk about concepts of inclusion or exclusion if we have no common criteria to define it among the countries.

Still in this direction, are statistical researches able to give us data about "poorness" or "social excluded" or "old-young persons relationship"? Of course they do but, in my opinion, they don't let

us to comprehend the real dimension of the problem in the specific context of each nation. A context that involves, for example, the models to which people compare and define themselves. In this view, the social work's policy of EU, to be able to face the problem of disadvantaged people needing aids, has not only to be coordinated with every policy of each state member, but, first of all, it has to improve the efforts for the knowledge of every single nation situation and to get over the resistance of each state member in releasing part of its sovereignty.

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