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## Violence Dynamics in the Context of Social Redefining in a Changing Society

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### Abstract

Periods following economic and financial crises are the most demanding in terms of individual adaptation to new society requirements. On the one hand, unemployment, migration, limited access to resources, greater competition on the labor market and the more pronounced social stratification force a permanent reassessment of skills needed for employability and shaping of the psychosocial identity. On the other hand, both social policies and the whole education system are required to be reconsidered and linked to the new European economic and social model. In the present study we will insist on risks and vulnerabilities of new generations facing violence in Europe, on major implications in terms of social, cultural and moral development, emphasizing the relevance of the role and influence of cultural and spiritual leaders.

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### 1. Introduction

Coherent representation of the image of the self, the others and the world in general gives meaning to individual action in a stable environment, understood by the subject; the social actor may be "the more violent, the system of relationships which could give a meaning to his action is more corrupted" (Wieviorka, 2004, p. 220), but this situational context does not necessarily generate violence, is not automatically prone to violence, but rather, due to subjectivity there is the risk that it should occur. In the context of the emergence of disruptive external factors (economic instability, financial and social prolonged crises) reconfiguration occurs in the processes of conscience.

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The individual reassesses his benchmarks, redefines his self image, reconsolidates his motivational potential and seeks to restore the desired status, acting accordingly. As Velleman (2000) notes, "an agent is influenced by a reason, and his action is consequently performed for that reason, when he is influenced by the representation of the action that makes it intelligible to him" (p. 368) How does the citizen shape his psychosocial identity in a Europe facing institutional, political, legal, civil, and not least, moral crises?

In this paper we will briefly present only a few problems currently faced by certain socio-professional categories in Europe, problems which, if ignored, can generate waves of increasingly greater violence, on the background of poverty and struggle for resources.

## 2. Violence caused by migration in Europe

Free movement of citizens within the European area in order to access certain jobs that would allow acquiring certain life quality entails two types of complex issues: the first issue is the migration of unskilled labor with the particular derived effects in the area of origin (depopulation of certain areas and thus increase in the percentage of elderly population requiring country-level welfare, thus increasing the pressure on active employed population – i.e. tax payers), and the second issue under discussion involves skilled labor migration and social problems caused by this phenomenon in both "donor" and "adoption" societies. The fact that a society invests capital in preparing and training the younger generation should have a correspondent both in what the labor market can absorb, according to the criterion 'demand – offer', and for valuing the quality of professional act. Under current conditions this report is subjected to an imbalance in certain EU countries, with medium and long- term effects at individual and collective levels.

On this background, manifestations of various forms of violence most often occur, from instrumental and structural violence to symbolic violence generated by political agents that lead to division and the perception of the other as an enemy (not only between individuals but also by mental contagion between nations - more precisely between certain segments of the population). "Symbolic construction of political violence is based on ideological conventions and habitus that guide the way in which individuals and groups perceive social reality and aims at setting and maintaining certain power relations" (Șandru, 2013, p.104).

### 2.1. Symbolic violence - the case of the political slogan "Romanians and Bulgarians – the criminals of Europe"

Cancelling restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian citizens regarding access to the western labor market is relevant from the perspective of effects "predicted" by certain political leaders, namely in the current situation - relying on self-fulfilling prophecy (even if the result was essentially another). Merton (1968) argued that "The self-fulfilling prophecy is, in the beginning, a false definition of the situation evoking a new behavior which makes the original false conception become true." (p. 477) By manipulating representations and implicitly by symbolic violence, the association between the character of a people and particular criminal cases has locally resulted, causing image damages by the stigma, labeling and incitement to ethnic and racial discrimination, hatred and aggressive manifestations. Some of those political agents who opposed to removing restrictions for citizens on the labor market sought not only to defend the status of their own citizens in front of the unemployment phenomenon faced by the entire Europe nowadays, but mostly to cover their own narrow political and institutional capacity (which they represent) to cope with and manage this social and political crisis, since migration is an element that puts extra pressure both on certain activity sectors and on the essence of life quality of the entire civil society. Not home caring services (home maintenance, assisting the elderly and children) provided by East-European citizens in northern or western Europe are those that "create problems" or face opposition, considering the fact that remuneration is below the market level sought by a citizen member of the respective State, but chiefly beggary/ human trafficking networks, namely criminal networks pose problems. In terms of social causality " judgments that we emit on the other are always, in a way, pre - judgments relative to a previous state ( ... ), representations are always inserted in a system of tensions that influences and modulates them in different ways. " (Doise, Deschamp & Mugny, 1996, p. 19). As a positive result of these challenges and social tensions, however, it can be mentioned that law projects and supplementary methodologies were developed, related to both the public aided status and the rights to unemployment / social welfare. Currently it is clearly stipulated in the EU countries that assisting the citizens who

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