The Migration in and from the Community in the Knowledge-based Society

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Abstract

The epistemic approach towards the knowledge-based society referred to notional level, is an approach that explains it within the Social Philosophy. Moreover, the knowledge-based society diversifies the forms of knowledge, highlighting not only the ones left out, but also the interconnection and interdependence among them. Thus, the present article analyses the available researches in order to reveal what was conceptualized as the knowledge-based society. Also, it points out the differences between the knowledge-based society and the contemporary society in order to see the deep changes that has been faced. Among these changesis the migration as an intensified phenomenon that starting with 90s of the last century became characterized by a different framework, especially in European area. These changes were because of the knowledge-based society that facilitates the employment thanks to the information technology. Additionally, the article emphasises the European policy measures for the knowledge based society and how these policies influence the neighbouring partner countries, like the Republic of Moldova.

Keywords: *Knowledge, migration, community, knowledge based society*

Nearly a decade and a half ago, from the beginning of the IIIrd millennium (XXI century), the variety of the multiple crises that the society is facing have not changed essentially. These highlight the shortcomings / delays, in some way, of the guidelines directing the accumulations and emphasize the need to identify their sources that appeared before the end of the XX century. The accumulation's similarities comprise a diverse/divergent/specific set, which reflected in the transformation of the deep changes and that requires to find the opportunities that would enhance the pillars of the society and would facilitate the identification of sources responsible for feeding the causes - effects - consequences of the ongoing actions in the community.

A hermeneutical overview of the triad causes - effects - consequences, emphasizes that the developing community environments usually is distorted.

Distortions, which development, are frequently difficult to identify, because the sources that generate them are constantly changing. However, in a developing society, the transformation occurs as a whole, connecting all society components and shaping the society's organizational model. A specific model of the society organization is whether from the post-soviet, Yugoslav or Czechoslovak area in Europe. And because the socio-economic, socio-cultural and last, but not least, the socio-political transition remains a difficult one, beyond the political statements, and being frequently distorted, have an artificial character, but formally supported by external sources they manage easily to keep the community away from the real problems. The effects of the distortions go beyond the limits of the established societies, despite their attempts to protect themselves. Therefore, understanding the impact of the community on the actions that they undertake during the pathway of becoming a complete entity is a stability indicator and a recognition by the civilization. In the same time, the developed societies face some difficulties to understand the multiculturalism as a reality and which recognition depends the security of future of the civilization.

From epistemic point of view, the multiple controversies of the contemporary society, at the first site, are influenced by the openings of the knowledge based society. Influences, which facilitates the re-dimensioning of the experiences, the transition from the closed to the open experience, ready to receive everything that can be known. It has to be mentioned that the world (society) is prepared not only to value what can be known, but to assist new processes by the creating favorable conditions. This it, in general, largely emphasized in philosophy and particularly in the social philosophy, through its own renewal. The renewal, recognition of which, by M. Florian means accepting the role of coordinator of philosophy in relation to the other sciences in building the world understanding. Moreover, through the concept of recessively, he sees a profound asymmetry of the structure of the world (global society), that means world has a recessive structure, and its' understanding can only be achieved through complex inter and multidisciplinary analysis. In this context, the renewal of the relations between science and philosophy, recognizing the role of the latter, becomes the sine qua non of the contribution that are brought to assure the profound security dissymmetry in the structure of the world. However, the disregard of one aspect in the condition of profound dissymmetry can lead to breaks and the formation of

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¹ M. Florian, *Recesivitatea ca structură a lumii* (Recessiveness structure of the world) (Bucharest: Pro, Vol. 1, 2003, Vol. II, 2004).

vacuums inside different social realities, which in the Era of Information increase the unknown then the known.

Thus, it is the time when the amplification of changes (the expression of deep changes) all over society actions' was catalyzed, also, by the obtained scientific results, opening new horizons in the community area, and including development components. These results value increased in time the impact of science on the development components, particularly the social aspect. Thus, it is not only the question of perpetuation of the development of social component happening, but also multiplying the fructification of them in all society levels, bringing on the top the issue of diversity. Alternatively, opening new horizons is faster than the Community environment preparation to value objectively and it leads to the alienation of general human values, among which are the attempts to change the human condition.² In addition, it can be added that the effects of changes in the field of science are becoming genuine opportunities that open in time, materialized either by establishing new research directions, or by modifying the available ones at the crossroads of several disciplines. Thus, it becomes necessary not only the emergence of new directions and disciplines, but also the ability of researchers to acknowledge the responsibility for the obtained results³ and the public role of science in contemporary society. Moreover, it is assumed that the community is heading towards knowledge, while knowledge based society concept is used only on regards to unlimited access to scientific and media information.4

The opening to scientific and media information presented as undeniable achievements of the contemporary world, leaves out the consequences of facilitating unlimited access to these products in all levels of social life. On one hand, it is not sufficiently clear the character of the available products, which are beyond the scientific framework, and institutions prepared to use them accordingly with the existing rules and regulations. On the other hand, the opening means not only access of individuals with different training backgrounds, but also to un-

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² M. Conovan, *Hannah Arendt. A reinterpretation of her political thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge Press University, 1992); F. Fukuyama, "Second thoughts. The last man in a bottle," *The National Interest*, Summer (1999): 1-20.

³ R. K. Merton, *Social theory and social structure* (New York: Free Press, 1949); M. Foucault *Cuvintele și lucrurile* (Bucharest: Rao, 2008).

⁴ M. Drăgănescu, "Societatea informațională și a cunoașterii. Vectorul societății cunoașterii" (Information and knowledge-society. The Vector of Knowledge Society), in *Societatea informațională- societatea cunoașterii*. *Concepte, soluții și strategii pentru societatea cunoașterii* (Information society - knowledge society. Concepts, solutions and strategies for the knowledge society), coord. F. Gh. Filip (Bucharest: Editura Academia Română, 2002), 43-11.

orthodox informal structures. At the same time, the public opinion, since the 60s of the XX century, is frequently overwhelmed by many statements on regards to the development of products derived from researches. However, these products are used by individuals, informal and illegal, and virtual structures in order to meet their goals frequently threaten the state and life of their peers.

Obviously, the effects of transformation, even if they are sustained by science, are not excluded from being influenced. Why? Because the complexity of transformations, attracts the totality of the society's actions, including science. Consequently, the opportunities that the science fields have brought to other areas become genuine for their own perpetuation, and the axiological decentralization is among them. Thus, the opportunities for decentralization diversify the research, establish new research directions, modify the outlines from the crossroads of several disciplines, as well as decentralize / multiply the centres of the values. The meaning of decentralization, in terms of axiological decentralization, is changing, and unlike, its usual meaning, like decentralization of central power or public services, it includes the emerging new value-centres, whose employees do not belong to the same geographical area. More exactly, it refers to the possibility of creation and establishment of value-centres inside social environments, with modest evolutionary and virtual backgrounds. On this basis, according with M. Foucault on regards to the most harmful traditions of human experience,⁵ we try through axiological decentralization to point out the need to identify the components to escape from the actual real system. For this purpose, the transparency in counting the programs is developed in order to build a society with a different way of thinking, with a different culture, and with a higher vision of the world. In addition, monitoring the use of experiences, including the negative ones, and how the growing tendency to diminish the values can be reduced, abandoning the *Earth's environment* heritage, from which humans are the main part.

Due to this, the epistemic approach of the knowledge based society is oriented also towards notional level, which is less emphasized. This incursion tries to clarify the notional concept of the knowledge based society inside social philosophy. Moreover, the knowledge based society diversifies the forms of knowledge, highlighting not only the ones left out, but also the interconnection / interdependence among them. Thus, in addition to explicit and tacit knowledge, which are usually used in scientific knowledge, there is a need to be completed with the everyday language that answers such questions as: do you know that? do you know where?, do you know why?, what if?, do you know how?, do you know

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⁵ M. Foucault, *Arheologia cunoașterii* (Archaeology of Knowledge), (Bucharest: Rao, 2011).

when?⁶ Meanwhile, the meaning of the knowledge based society continues to be sensitized/understood fragmentally rather than as a whole. Analysing the available researches, from the second half of the twentieth century, it reveals the appearance of *a new thinking age* or what was called later – the knowledge based society and which had little connection with the social reality. Thus, according with the representatives of postmodern constructivism approaches, like G-F. Lyotard, L.Hutcheon,⁷ etc., introducing the term *new thinking age* and by the return to premodernism we ignore the reality changes.⁸ In this context, according to P. Drucker⁹ the knowledge based society / knowledge society is a stage of *new thinking age*, or a new stage of the informational era, while according with M. Drăgănescu¹⁰ the information society is a knowledge society through the philosophical concept of the laws of trends and transformations. According with R. Mansell¹¹ it is a new potential of combination of ICT information systems with the creative potential of people to develop knowledge, and finally yet importantly, the knowledge society is an abbreviation of the knowledge-based society.

Indeed, the emphasize of differences between the knowledge based society and the contemporary society was highlighted due to the researches made during last two decades on the deep changes that this faces. Thus, it has been underlined that the deep changes analyzed separately and pictured only inside the post-communist society's area, contrary to the reality, had left behind the causes that produced these changes in both the developing social environments and the developed ones. Both are emphasized thanks to the deep changes reflected through the transformations and the social relationships evolution within societies. These mutual relations, which usually were oriented from inside to outside of the community framework had to deal with the outside to inside dimension, changing the concept of neighbourhood, and *vice versa* from inside to outside. Thus, being transformed the intra and extra changes comprise the area of challenging the

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⁶ Iancu Şt. "Societatea cunoașterii necesită gândire" (The Knowledge Society Requires Thinking), *Cogito* 2(1999), www.cogito.ucdc.ro/.

⁷ J-F. Lyotard, *Condiția postmodernă*. *Raport asupra cunoasterii* (Postmodern Condition. Report on Knowledge), (Bucharest: Babel, 1993); L. Hutcheon, *Politica postmodernă* (Postmodern Politics), (Bucharest: Univers, 1998).

⁸ A. Pascaru, *Societatea între conflict și conciliere: cazul Republicii Moldova* (Society between conflict and conciliation: the Republic of Moldova Case), (Chișinău: Tipogr.-Sirius, 2012), 34-35, 43-68, 117-131.

⁹ P. Drucker, "The Age of social transformation," *The Atlantic Monthly* 274, 5(1994): 53-80.

¹⁰ Drăgănescu, "Societatea informațională și a cunoașterii."

Mansell R., Steinmuller W.E. and Montalvo U.D.d. "Opportunities for knowledge-bazed development: capabilities, infrastructure, investments and policy," *Science and public policy* 26(2) (1998): 91-100.

borders of developed / stable societies, the inclusion of the manifested realities, the formation of interconnections / interdependencies / interactions within and outside the society, up to the facilitation or marginalization of the societies raze on the civilization arena. In this context, it is highlighted the contribution of the knowledge based society in changing the neighborhood meaning – from the surrounding, sub-region or continent society to another continent and the interconnection, interdependence of relationships and the interaction between societies lay the foundations for the multiple processes, which balance between the limit of predictable and unpredictable, polarization, etc. The costs of such a level of reality through openings (by opportunities of the knowledge based society) increases the level of influence, even of those not involved, thus finding themselves inside the problem that only yesterday was just of their neighbours, and that was not possible to avoid although there were some attempts to solve this problem by protectionist or prohibition laws.

In this context, the reality level includes the migration as well, which starting with the 90s of the XX century, is characterized by a different framework than before. Firstly, the mass migration comes from developing societies, not just from Eastern Europe, but it only complements the existing one. Secondly, a big part of the migrants, having undergraduate and graduate education, accept jobs net inferior to their status of education on labor market. Thirdly, the opportunities of the knowledge based society facilitate the understanding of the migration not only as a problem that has to be solved exclusively by the receiving communities, but highlights the need to raise awareness among the migrant communities of the contribution to the development of arrival society. Fourthly, the knowledge based society facilitates the employment even remotely, thank to information technology. Thus, through the state of migrants we see both their backgrounds as well as the local environment that capitalize on new opportunities. Due to this, further we will concentrate on the particularities that characterize the migration from the Republic of Moldova.

The mass migration of Moldovans started in 1998 and it continued intensively until 2007 and it was conditioned by a combination of economic factors and a series of internal and external shocks. These shocks, similarly to the cases of other states from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the transition which had as objectives the macro-economic stabilization, liberalization and restructuration of the economy, became a severe long-term economic crisis, causing recession, high unemployment rates, inflation and deindustrialization. These factors contributed to the increase of the number of Moldovans that

migrated to knowledge based societies or developed ones, thus transforming the Republic of Moldova in a migrant exporting society. Although, in the recent years the number of migrants stabilized the migration flow from the Moldovan society continues to have a constant trend.

According to the official estimation of the Government of Republic of Moldova, more that 25% of the workforce of Moldova, lives and works abroad at the moment. However, the numbers vary from source to source and represent about 345,000 people. Another research estimates the number of 411,000 or 12.4% of the total population belong to long term international migrants, which mean that they stay abroad more the 12 month. Out of this number – 370,000 are migrant workers or 11% of the total population. Thus, 23% of Moldovan households have at least one member that works abroad for a long term. Fifty-six percent (or 206,000) of migrant workers are in Russia, 22% (or 81,000) are in Italy, and between 2% and 3% (or 8,000-10,000) in each of the following countries – France, Turkey and Portugal. In addition, 18,400 Moldovans are studying abroad. The number of Moldovan students abroad has a positive trend since the year 2000. This increase of Moldovans that study abroad was leaded by their will to access the knowledge and also by the changes in the European framework of education.

More exactly, at the European Union Lisbon Summit in March 2000, the European Union embarked on a strategy to make Europe the most competitive knowledge based economy in the world by 2010. The summit called for a new method of "open coordination" to promote sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. Circumnavigating traditional forms of EU policy formulation, this approach called for setting targets and benchmarking progress, primarily through the EU Council and the Council met every spring to follow progress and determine new targets for the Lisbon Strategy. At the Stockholm European Council in March 2001 sustainable development policy was added to economic and social policy as a third area for coordination through the Lisbon Process.

Thus, the Lisbon Summit plan "turning Europe into the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion" had the following main aims:

¹³ Sondajul gospodăriilor și migranților, Centrul de Analiză și Investigații Sociologice, Politologice și Psihologice CIVIS și IASCI în cadrul NEXUS Moldova. (The Survey of Households and Immigrants. Center for Analysis and Sociological, Political and Psychological).

¹² http://iom.md/index.php/ro/rograme/migratia-si-dezvoltarea

- a transition to a knowledge-based economy by improving policies for the information society and R&D, pursuing structural reform for competitiveness and completing the internal market;
- a modernization of the European social model by investing in people and combating social exclusion;
- sustaining the economic outlook and favorable growth perspective by applying an appropriate macro-economic policy mix;
- quantifiable targets in a variety of areas (R&D, education, employment, etc.);
- making use of existing processes and reporting instruments: the BEPG
 (Stability Pact), the Employment Guidelines (the Luxemburg process) and structural reform (the Cardiff process);
- governance based on the Community method, the Open Method of Coordination and political commitment.

Many elements of the Lisbon Strategy affect the EEA Agreement, so it is therefore a high priority for EEA EFTA States to participate in the relevant parts of the process. In October 2000, the Standing Committee of the EFTA States established an ad hoc group on the follow-up to the Lisbon Summit. This group coordinated EEA EFTA comments to the Stockholm (2001), Barcelona (2002) and Brussels (2003 and 2004) summits.¹⁴

Thus, the Lisbon Strategy made a strong emphasize towards a knowledge-based society. ¹⁵ The target towards a knowledge based society means first that if people arriving on the labor market, among which migrants as well, are to participate in the knowledge economy, their level of education must be sufficiently high. In this context the inverse relationship between level of education and rate of unemployment is becoming more pronounced.

On the other hand, teaching and research should be better coordinated at European level. This can be achieved by creating networks of national and joint research programmes.

Additionally, only by making the resources available will Europe be able to develop the job creation opportunities offered by ICT. It has been estimated that, between 2000 and 2010, half of all new jobs in Europe will be related directly or

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¹⁴ http://lifelonglearning-observatory.eucen.eu/lisbon-process-0.

¹⁵ The Lisbon Special European Council (March 2000): *Towards a Europe of Innovation and Knowledge*, http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/general_framework/c10241 en.htm 15.

indirectly to information technologies, like those jobs already created by the EU's comparative advantage in mobile telephony.

Thus, the Lisbon Strategy has proved to be the European Union's most relevant strategic action and development plan. Although its ambitious goals are far from being fully achieved in its ten-year life cycle, its contribution to progress in different areas of EU economic development and social cohesion is considered to be relevant and there is no doubt that Lisbon-type reforms need to be continued. The importance of constructing a new economic model for the EU has become evident following the economic crisis, which pointed towards numerous structural weaknesses in the member state economies. Therefore the new "Europe 2020" project, launched in March 2010, focused particularly on finding an adequate response to the ongoing challenges by assigning greater value to themes such as knowledge and innovation, low carbon economies, higher growth, employment and social cohesion.¹⁶

The Europe 2020 strategy has emerged with three principle tasks, while the central ideas of the Lisbon Strategy have been kept. Firstly, the EU has to continue with the Lisbon-type reforms. Secondly, on top of the existing Lisbon framework, Europe 2020 needs to develop new instruments of economic governance which should bring more policy convergence and better overall results. These new governance instruments could prove crucial in overcoming the effects of the crisis in Europe. Finally, Europe 2020 has to build its profile externally, by proving its relevance globally. The external dimension of Europe 2020 is of particular importance to the EU candidate, potential candidate and neighbouring countries, which are expected to be more closely associated with this agenda.

In this context, the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020" comes to articulate a vision of cohesive long-term sustainable economic growth, based on a diagnostic study of constraints to growth and comes into play to adjust the national strategies towards European ones.

Moldova as a neighboring country of EU is among the first countries from ex-soviet area to have secured full access to the European Union's new seven-year research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. In addition, Moldova has signed the association agreement. As stated by the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: "The agreements signed are good for these countries and good for the European Union. Increased

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¹⁶ Višnja Samardžija and Hrvoje Butković, eds., *From the Lisbon Strategy to Europe 2020* (Institute for International Relations - IMO, Zagreb, 2010), ww1.zagreb.hr/euzg/eu_publikacije/From_the_lisbon_strategy_to_europe_2020.pdf.

¹⁷ Moldova 2020, National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova for 2012-2020.

cooperation in research and innovation will create new opportunities for growth, competitiveness and jobs in all our economies. Association to Horizon 2020 will facilitate the mobility of excellent scientists, strengthen national research systems, and help the countries integrate into the European Research Area." The access to this program might serve as a tool for many Moldovan researches to not only learn from the experience of the knowledge based societies but also stop the brain drain from the country and might serve as a tool to bring back the Moldovan researchers that migrated abroad.

The main factors that motivated Moldovans to migrate were the economic factors, among which low living standards, the lack of a job and/or the lack of adequate income, consequently migration was an opportunity to obtain the knowhow and to benefit from the advanced technology in the countries where they migrated. Now with the available funding opportunities and with the experience that Moldovan migrants gained abroad can serve as a opportunity for return.

More exactly, Moldovans that moved abroad, once arrived in the knowledge based societies obtained the access to new knowledge, technology and the internet. The internet represents for them a mean to access information, to improve their professional and personal skills and to maintain the connection with their families. These new possibilities of the society based on knowledge eventually arrived in their homeland. The global network of internet helped the Moldovan migrants to keep the connection with their country, their families, friends and colleagues. Moreover, the on-line space offered the opportunity to get involved in the social, economic, political life of their country. This involvement grew gradually and now, we observe a quite active implication, especially in the area of the democratic pursuit and the European vector of the country. Moldovans that live abroad are using the internet as a trans-national public space where they can express and debate their visions, ideas, hypothesis about various topics, like history, culture, democracy and identity. Through the internet the Moldovan diaspora mobilizes itself and organizes events, demonstrations, gathers money for supporting families in need from Moldova, discuss the new laws and rules, as well as, participate at political debates that influences the decisions that the Government of Republic of Moldova is taking. This virtual participation has a big impact in Republic of Moldova - a country that is facing multiple social, political, economic and demographic crises. On the other hand, this contribution of the diaspora represents an important cause of the development of the country, thanks to the transfer of the

¹⁸ European Commission, Press release, Brussels, 1 July 2014, Western Balkans countries, Moldova sign up to Horizon 2020, http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release IP-14-746 en.htm.

knowledge and the innovation of the host knowledge-based society to the country of origin.

Undoubtedly, the internet is not only a tool to discuss and debate for the diaspora, but it is a tool for criticizing the public policies, promoting diverse values and creating new communities. Consequently, the internet is not only a source of information, but it become as well, a space for emotion and creativity. In this context, the representatives of the diaspora in the virtual environment represent more than a simple immigrant or a simple worker from abroad, but he is an active member of the society of origin and it has the potential to create new forms of citizenship, communities and public policies.

The analysis of Moldovan migrants denotes the major influence of the host knowledge-based society. This influence is indicated primarily by the increase of the usage of new technologies, as well as, the transfer of innovation from these societies. Numerous Moldovans that return home and open their business choose to put into practice the knowledge they obtained abroad, and behave the way they got used in the knowledge-based societies. It is certain the fact that these changes happening on a personal level has an impact on the change of the local society as well.

Therefore, we can state that the impact of the knowledge-based societies has a direct effect on the migrant and indirectly on their society of origin. But this influence and know how transfer from the knowledge based society back home is small and rest insignificant, that's why additional measures are necessary in order to enforce and encourage the know how transfer, as well as develop synergies with the available funding opportunities and develop inclusive policies of the returnees.

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