

Introduction

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1. Premises

Various political, economic, social and cultural processes of transformation have taken place in the era of globalisation. Europe presents itself to this globalising world with an immense wealth of cultural, social and linguistic diversities. However, in today's global era Europe is confronted with the preoccupation and responsibility to maintain its proper socio-economic model of integration and diversity in this rapidly changing world system. Within this context the shared values which bind our societies together, such as freedom, loyalty, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, tolerance and solidarity, are crucial for Europe's future. However, all the changes and uncertainties taking place in the political, economic, social and cultural areas call for a safeguarding of these values through (innovative) institutional mechanisms and true policies of internal and external dialogues.

We are confronted with a cultural environment that is rapidly transforming and becomes more diversified. The management of cultural diversities in our societies becomes crucial. This requires a real dialogue, fertile but open to cultures and peoples within and outside Europe, but also a better understanding of the mutual learning and an education to dialogue.

The term of dialogue touches many aspects and problems of our societies. This also represents one of the major challenges for a development of a new plural and democratic citizenship in Europe. Intercultural dialogue has sense to the extent that the sharing of values is translated in a «doing together», in inclusive policies on local, regional, national, European and international level.

Dialogue and cooperation, management of cultural diversity and multiple identities, intercultural dialogue, human rights

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and citizenship, respect for the other, the European dimension of education and mutual learning are focal points of reference for developing a multi-level and multi-actor Europe. It requires an open and respectful dialogue to obtain participative governance at various levels, from the city, the regions, Europe to the international organisations. The urban and local contexts, regional and territorial cooperation such as the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation or «the socially responsible territories» become crucial instruments for an active conviviality between citizens and institutions in which regions and cities are more and more shaping actors.

This special thematic issue of the Review collects a range of essays which were presented during the International Workshop on «Multi-level Governance of Intercultural Dialogue», organised on 23-24 March 2010 at the University of Padua, together with some additional papers by Jean Monnet professors relevant to the general theme. They all deal with the broad framework of the concept, the policy approach and the linkage between multi-level governance and intercultural dialogue. We distinguish three levels of presentation and analysis of the various papers in this special number of the periodical: the first two papers are policy-based contributions by experienced politicians, proposing either a general or specific focus of the general theme; the following three papers explore the conceptual frontiers and possibilities of governing intercultural dialogue from different (inter) disciplinary angles, and finally the last three contributions propose policy applications in the specific areas of local governance, civil society participation and education.

The first paper *Multi-level Governance and Intercultural Dialogue: The Prospects for 2020* was the public Jean Monnet lecture delivered by Luc Van den Brande, former President of the Committee of the Regions and the current Chairman of the Constitutional, Institutional and External Affairs Committee (CIVEX) of the Committee of the Regions. It provides a broad policy assessment of the «EU 2020 Strategy» in view of the pursuit of a European «multi-actor» unity. Paul Breyne, the Governor of West Flanders, Belgium, presents the view, testimony and experience of a practitioner in managing cross-border dialogue from a local governance level, in

particular, he deals with *The Practice of Territorial Dialogue in Europe: The View of a Practitioner*.

The paper by Léonce Bekemans *A Cosmopolitan Perspective of Multi-level Governance in Europe* proposes a cosmopolitan shaping and understanding of the emerging European polity of multi-level governance structures. It is argued that the viability of cosmopolitan democracy rests on its ability to facilitate a new understanding of multi-level governance and intercultural dialogue. In his paper *Values, Intercultural Dialogue and Making It Pay to Be Good: More than a Research Agenda, but also a Policy Approach for the European Union to Promote in the World*, Peter G. Xuereb pleads for a structured and functional values dialogue with a view to identifying and committing to the common good. This underlying moral dimension of dialogue requires political choices. Antonio Papisca introduces the legal and institutional aspects of multi-level governance in his contribution *Value Roots for Multi-level Governance and Intercultural Dialogue*, very much focussing on the cultural and moral foundations of «glocal» governance and plural citizenship.

Conform to the structure of the overall research framework of the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence «Intercultural Dialogue, Human Rights and Multi-level Governance» of the University of Padua, the last three contributions deal with specific issues in the relation between multi-level governance and intercultural dialogue. In the article *Multi-level Governance in Regional Perspective* Frank Delmartino discusses the essential features of MLG and then elaborates on a «actor-centred» approach of policy-making towards (active) citizenship on European level and participation on the regional and local level. In the paper *Civil Society Participation in Intercultural Dialogue* Manuel Manonelles firstly clarifies the conceptual framework of the interaction between civil society and intercultural dialogue and secondly identifies the most relevant institutional processes linked to intercultural dialogue of civil society participation at global, regional (European and Euro-Mediterranean) and local level. The last paper by Enrique Banús introduces the theme of *Education to Intercultural Dialogue*. It follows up the recommendation by the Scientific Committee at the end of the Conference on Intercultural Dialogue organised by the European Commission in March

2002. It elaborates on the topic by addressing two questions, i.e. why education to intercultural dialogue and how to educate to intercultural dialogue.

2. Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence «Intercultural Dialogue, Human Rights and Multi-level Governance» of the University of Padua

The Centre was launched in September 2000 and is located at the Interdepartmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples of the University of Padua. In 2007 the University and the Centre on Human Rights were a Jean Monnet success story for promoting dialogue between peoples and cultures. It was reaffirmed in the summer of 2009 when the University was one of the few institutions to have the title and funding re-awarded by the Education & Training Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission.

It hosts the Jean Monnet Chair *ad honorem* held by Professor Antonio Papisca, the Jean Monnet Chair on «Globalisation, Intercultural Dialogue and Inclusiveness in the European Union», held by Professor Léonce Bekemans, the Jean Monnet Chair on «European Union Political System» held by Professor Marco Mascia and the Jean Monnet Module on «Sport and Human Rights in European Union Law» held by Professor Jacopo Tognon. It operates in an interdisciplinary and proactive synergy within and outside the university and possesses a wide-ranging expertise in international relations, human rights, political science, intercultural dialogue and interdisciplinary studies with a focus on policy-oriented research.

The purpose is to strengthen and consolidate the European and international profile of the existing curriculum of teaching and research activities with a specific focus on capacity building and curriculum development in the area of intercultural dialogue, human rights and multi-level governance. In the framework of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the policy debate on dialogue of cultures and peoples has gained a new momentum and necessitates an extended and deepened analysis of the relation between intercultural dialogue and human rights within a European and global perspective. In short, the Centre focuses

its activities on strengthening cooperation and networking with the civil society, the regional authorities and other Jean Monnet Centres and Chairs active in the field of intercultural dialogue, human rights and multi-level governance.

The vision, mission and working of the Centre are rooted in the *acquis* gained from past experiences in various Jean Monnet activities, from contributions to structural reflection on the dialogue between cultures and peoples, from activities in lifelong learning programmes in the territory of north-east Italy as well as from the existing network of international cooperation. In particular, the Centre follows up the activities which were started with the previous Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence (2000-2007), it actively contributes to Jean Monnet Reflection Groups and Workshops of the Committee of the Regions, participates to the Global ECSA World-Jean Monnet Conferences, is fully committed to the activities of the Italian University Association for European Studies (ECSA-Italy) and collaborates with the Veneto Region in several European related projects. More precisely, its activities build on the action-oriented interuniversity JM research project (2006-2007) on *The Role of Intercultural Dialogue in the Development of a New, Plural and Democratic Citizenship*. The subsequent publication (*Intercultural Dialogue and Citizenship. Translating Values into Action. A Common Project for European and Their Partners*, Marsilio Editori, Venezia, 2007) illustrated an action-oriented and innovative research approach in the relation between intercultural dialogue and citizenship and was a major contribution to the Year 2008 for Intercultural Dialogue.

The activities of the Centre also rely on the experience of the current Jean Monnet Chair on «Globalisation, Intercultural Dialogue and Inclusiveness in the EU» of the University of Padua. The major objective is to introduce an educational offer that is centred on the future construction of European integration, i.e. the role of the EU in the world as a model for peaceful integration, in particular in the dialogue between peoples and cultures and the relation between globalisation and inclusiveness. Since multicultural situations and processes have become a crucial *governance issue* at local, national, regional, international levels, the subject needs to be addressed, in a more specific and articulated way than in the past, by

political science, economics, international law and international relations. The long-term objective is to build a substantial and sustainable content approach in the teaching and research component of the Faculty, by further opening up its teaching to students, school teachers and civil society actors and consolidating its regional, national and European network. The activities and events cover: teaching modules: «Territorial Dialogue: EGTC and Territorial Cooperation for Intercultural Dialogue and Social Cohesion»; «Intercultural and Inter-religious Dialogue»; «Immigration and Trafficking: A Human Rights Perspective»; «Intercultural Dialogue and Multi-level Governance: The Case of City Diplomacy»; and «Sport for Intercultural Dialogue and Inclusion»; Jean Monnet lectures by invited experts on policy-related topics; and an action-oriented research programme devoted to foster curriculum development activities related to «Intercultural Dialogue and Multi-level Governance». The programme is guided by high quality Steering Committee of Jean Monnet professors.

3. Curriculum Development: Thematic Network Activities: Intercultural Dialogue and Multi-level Governance

The thematic network activities of the research programme focus on capacity building and curriculum development in the area of intercultural dialogue and multi-level governance. These activities are finalised in actor-oriented workshops which deal with the following sub themes:

a) Local governance of intercultural dialogue. It concerns the European governance of cultural diversity, in particular the local governance practices of intercultural dialogue, with a specific focus on the Euro-Mediterranean area. It explores the need to manage cultural diversity at local and regional governance levels within a broad multi-polar world. Following issues are addressed: cultural interactions and multiculturalism in European societies; the relevance of the new world order for the local and regional authorities; action-oriented reflection on the urban context in its local and regional dimension with reference to innovative concepts such as city diplomacy, «intercultural cities», cities of peace, etc.) as well as on inter-

connective practices by cities, local and regional governments.

b) Civil society participation in intercultural dialogue. It concerns key concepts of democratic citizenship and civil society participation in intercultural dialogue. Three major focal points are distinguished in an appropriate curriculum development: innovative processes of intercultural dialogue and civil society participation; intercultural dialogue and active citizenship with reference to participatory democracy in areas of local governance and the relevance of the emerging multi-polar world in view of the participation of civil society organisations and non-governmental structures in intercultural dialogue at local, regional and European level.

c) Education to intercultural dialogue. It concerns educational spaces and learning practices of intercultural dialogue in an interdependent world. The intercultural dialogue is set within the dialogues' framework, in which education to intercultural dialogue, being integral part of civic education and set in a lifelong learning perspective, is of utmost importance. Various aspects and levels are recognised for appropriate curriculum building: crucial role of education; the role and importance of stake holders/actors in education and learning at international, European national, regional and local level active in intercultural dialogue and intercultural education and the learning tools to intercultural dialogue.

The above-mentioned issues are addressed and oriented to three main players in the field of intercultural dialogue and multi-level governance: local and regional authorities, especially in the Euro-Mediterranean area, civil society organisations and teachers, educators and school authorities.

The launching event of the thematic network activities was the International Workshop of March 2009 which dealt with the conceptual and valorial framework of the curriculum development activities as well as with the specific theme of territorial cooperation.