

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
MEASURING DEVELOPMENT
IN TURBULENT TIMES**

November 28-29, 2017
Bucharest,
Romania



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STATISTICS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Culture in the Equation of Social Development

Interpretation of Cultural Indicators from the Perspective of a Romanian Cultural Model

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General objective of this sub-project

In this study, we try to argue that the indicators we use to describe the cultural life in Romania should be interpreted by their systematic relation to two reference systems:

a) data expressing the country's social and economic state

a) certain particularities of the Romanian cultural model (traditions, values, attitudes, practices).

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- In knowledge-based society, the development is concomitantly an economic and a cultural process
- The role of non-economic factors (education, values, motivations, cognitive skills, etc.) in support of economic development strategies
- **Key words:** cultural capital, symbolic goods, non-economic factors, cultural model, form and substance.



Research questions

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- How can the components of culture intervene in the development of economic sectors?
- Through what correlations and following what path does a cultural factor influence the people's economic behaviors?
- What significance do the cultural indicators acquire when we relate them to the national context and to certain features of the Romanian cultural model?

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- Meanings of the idea of culture
- Distinctions and debates:
 - symbolic and instrumental
 - culture and civilization
 - high culture - popular culture



Cultural Capital

- Culture is *an expression* of a society, but also *an irreplaceable component* of that society
- Values and forms of cultural expression must be seen as *constitutive factors* of the social practice and of the way of living
- Along with the resources, the technology and the aspects regarding the economic, social and political life, the state of a nation is defined in a decisive way by its **cultural capital**, by the creation of values in various fields (science, technology, art, etc.) and, in general, by the activities and forms of symbolic expression.

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**Culture =
*symbolic equipment
of social agents***

- The cultural capital is an important component from the complex called the “productive forces” of a nation
- Distinction “between wealth and its cause”
- *The power to create wealth is infinitely more important than wealth itself* - Friedrich List (1789-1846)
- The quality of education and the level of scientific research are strategic factors of development

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Bourdieu & cultural capital

- Habitus - the individuals' social history, their practical, educational and cultural experiences are internalized in their inner system of habits, inclinations, dispositions, perceptions, attitudes and evaluations;
- How do the elements of the cultural field participate in shaping the social and economic field?
- the cultural capital is an important component from the complex called the `productive forces` of a nation.

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Non-economic factors of economic development (1):

-the cultural structure of the human factor, made up of elements related to the cognitive capital, the symbolic device and the axiological profile of individuals, groups and organizations within a nation.

-non-economic factors in supporting economic development strategies: education, values, motivations, cognitive skills, strategies, etc.

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Non-economic factors of economic development (2):

Art, religion, science: cultural domains that can be deeply correlated with certain types of economic activities or with historical epochs of development and prosperity.

-EU/Eurostat documents: culture = cultural and creative sectors: all forms of creation, means of expression and activities tangent to the cultural phenomenon.



Cultural and creative sectors

- Cultural and creative sectors: film industry, book industry, visual arts support industries, publicity, discs, video games, etc.
- The cultural goods are inevitably joining the commercial circuits, they are traded, sold and purchased on a "symbolic goods market" that has become global and very competitive.
- Indicators: "the companies turnover in the cultural sector" and "the trade in cultural goods (export/import share)".

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Non-economic factors of economic development (3):

-Indicator 1: the companies' turnover in the cultural sector or the trade in cultural goods (export/import share)

-Indicator 2: the balance between the export and import of cultural goods



- **Religion – an obstacle or a stimulating factor for development?**

Does religion have „practical effects” on the lives of individuals, including their economic behavior?

- Huntington: religion - a central element in defining civilizations; Culture - “force that divides and unites alike”
- Western civilization was deeply shaped by the values and attitudes that Catholicism and Protestantism promoted throughout history.

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”Practical effect of religion”

- Max Weber:

Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism -1904

- Correlations between the economic behavior of the people and the content of beliefs and religious ideas
- Protestant ethics - the source of modern capitalism
- The religious sense of labor - the instrument of salvation

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Lucian Blaga: differences between Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Protestantism

- „The favorite categories of Catholicism belong to the sacramental-statist authority: state, hierarchy, discipline, obedience, faith militancy. The favorite categories of Protestantism belong to freedom: independence of beliefs, deliberation, problematization, determination, duty, fidelity. And the favorite categories of Orthodoxy belong to organicity: life, earth, nature. These differences of bipolarity, between Christian spiritualities, are manifested with impressive evidence in the way confessional communities conceive various realities and problems involved in their religious and spiritual life”.

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Knowledge, intelligence, ideas: strategic resources for development

”No culture that becomes too homogeneous, too self-satisfied or too tied to old orthodoxies will produce enough new ideas. (...).

As far as societies are concerned, the vitality and diversity of a culture and its resistance to uniformity, now, as always, offer the best chances of successfully meeting future challenges” (Chirot, 1996: 214).

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“the state is felt like a burden: no political credo of modern times has been repeated so frequently and applauded with so much heat as the urgent need ”to free individuals from the crushing weight of the state” (...). The need to reduce or dispose of this burden - and, along with it, what a pleasant surprise!, the taxes it finances - is an basic item of faith for the easy and satisfied majority” (Galbraith, 1993: 31)

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Cultural models and development strategies

- a complex structure that lays its mark on all human manifestations, including the modes of practical action on nature. Consequently, the economic behaviors of the people, how they work, produce and consume, are determined by the particular configuration of values and attitudes rooted in long-lasting cultural structures and mentalities and.

- To describe the Romanian cultural model's traits: relate Romanian thinkers who embarked on systematic approaches to this topic with the theories in intercultural communication (Edward T. Hall, Geert Hofstede, Richard Lewis, etc.)

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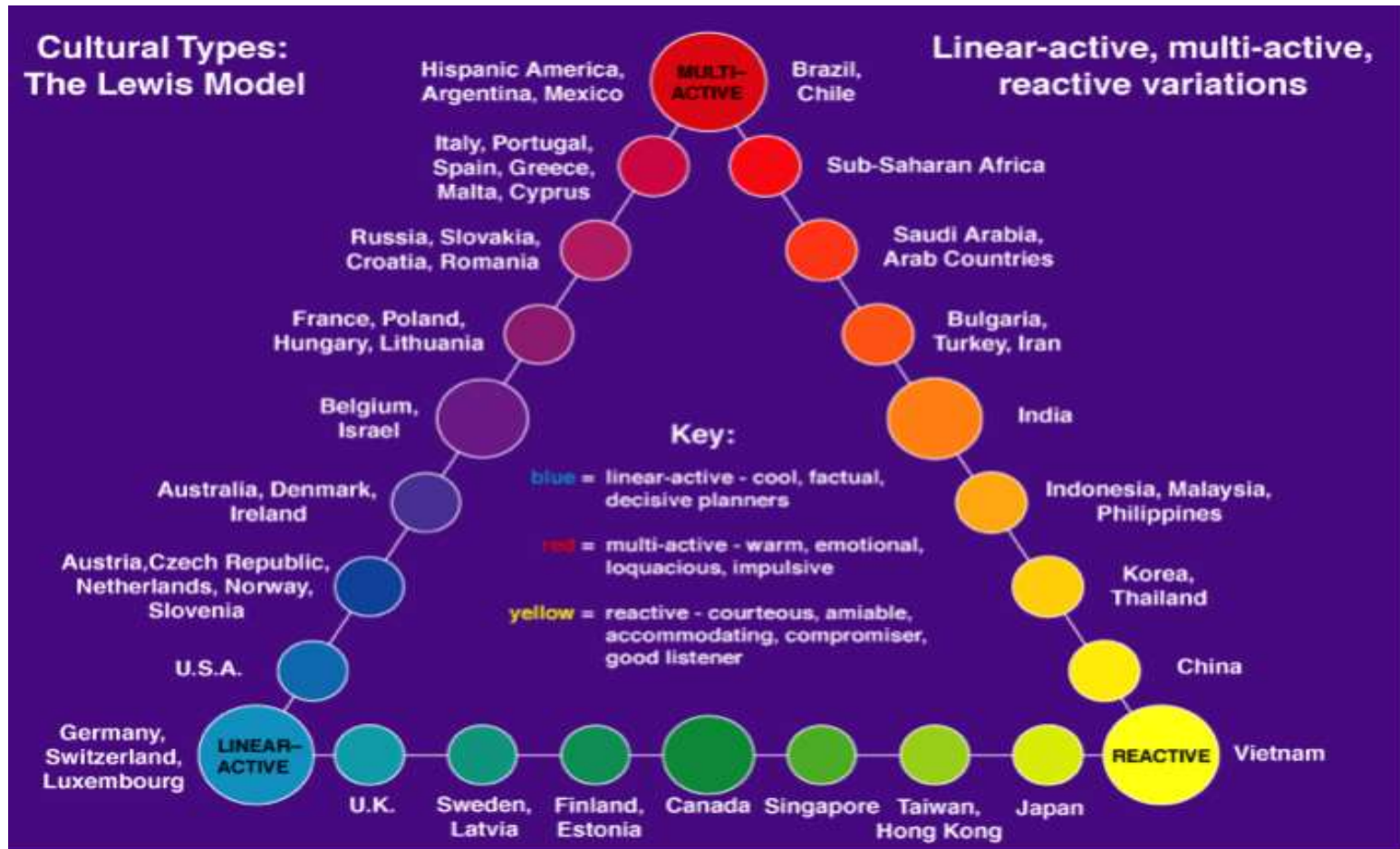
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Description	Type	Needed to
task-oriented, highly-organized planners, who complete action chains by doing one thing at a time, preferably in accordance with a linear agenda	LINEAR-ACTIVE	organise, plan, see problems, analyse consequences, follow consistent policies, access rational thought, generate data, and challenge us objectively
emotional, loquacious and impulsive people who attach great importance to family, feelings, relationships, people in general. They like to do many things at the same time and are poor followers of agendas	MULTI-ACTIVE	generate enthusiasm, motivate, persuade, create a positive social atmosphere, access emotions, generate dialogue, and challenge us personally
good listeners, who rarely initiate action or discussion, preferring first to listen to and establish the other's position, then react to it and form their own opinion	REACTIVE	harmonise, act intuitively, be patient and see the big picture, think and act long-term, access feelings, listen, empathize and challenge us holistically

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Instead of conclusions:

„Good country, bad governance” - a response to „forms without substance”?

One of the reiterative formulations of Romanian modernization;

-The chiasm between organic development in Western Europe and import of institutions in modern Romania;

-The term „governance” is replete with meanings, it covers concomitantly: a way of organization, a type of administration, a kind of legislation, types of institutions or, more precisely, an institutional arrangement, a certain administrative capacity of the state, all seen as a result of a negotiation between people on governance. It means governance, and social contract. And also amiable understanding.