

THE ROLE OF KNOWING ONE'S NATIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

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Abstract. *In this paper it is argued how the development of the national culture and citizens' awareness of the place and role of their national culture in Europe and in the world improve their quality of life. Now, with our integration in the European political space and our desire to build a new society, we must consider a number of hard-to-quantify factors, including "the cultural differences in the sphere of aspirations", when we determine our development strategy. To this end, several papers on the place and role of our national culture in Europe and in the world should be written and a national cultural strategy should be developed to generate and disseminate culture throughout the country, to spread the Romanian values abroad and to change the current mentalities, which delay our social cultural development.*

Keywords: National cultural history; Quality of life; National cultural strategy, Role of our national culture in Europe and in the world.

1. Introduction

A physicist-philosopher wondered, "Who believes in the future of a nation without values". But we have a country with a great past, we are still having some natural resources, we can manage a habitat with multiple ecological and spiritual valences that influence the quality of life and the level of integration into the European cultural and economic space and still we are not one of the countries to set an example for others. Why? What could be done to improve the quality of life of our fellow citizens, taking into account a number of difficulties that our country faces today: the demographic decrease, the brain drain and the exodus of skilled and low-skilled labor, the decline of the domestic industry, the unemployment and the lack of jobs, the soil deterioration, the pollution of air, of ground and of surface waters, the aesthetic pollution, the loss of some local traditions, the relatively isolated character, the low investments, the lack of a developed road or fluvial transport infrastructure, the insignificant modernization of the utilities, such as the fresh water supply and household waste sewage etc.

The Romanian Institute of Projects for Innovation and Development argues, in its second study on the retraining of the national human resource, entitled "Romania's chance – its people. Romania's Retraining", that "retraining is a must in Romania in order to correct the serious errors in the national training strategies

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(and educational strategies in general), used by the former regime, and the lack of realistic and well-founded strategies since 1989” [1].

In a study published in 1994 [2] it was claimed that any transition process of a former communist state consists of three interrelated transitions: a political transition, an economic one and a cultural one. In the study „Romania’s chance – its people Romania’s Retraining”, published in 2009, it is estimated that, after more than 19 years after the regime change in 1989, the political transition, which is the fastest (about 5 years), and the economic one, which took approximately 10 years, are over. The cultural transition, which would require an entire generation length (about 25-30 years), would be still running, even if it had been accelerated by the process of Romanian integration to the European Union and by undertaking the targets set at Lisbon [3].

2. The culture and the quality of life

At the end of '50s of the 20th century, C.W. Mills¹ advanced the concept of quality of life, somehow complementary to that of happiness, which was one of the main themes of ancient philosophers, and also one of the general objectives of the sociological research, but the subsequent explicit and, especially, implicit results of the sociological research on this theme have been rare. Since the '60s of the 20th century the term of quality of life has become the subject of separate branches of knowledge. [4]. The quality of life as a subject of research is part of the social sciences and its aim is to promote human welfare and, particularly, to improve the humans' fate. The connections between the quality of life research and the related subjects are shown in Fig. 1. [5].

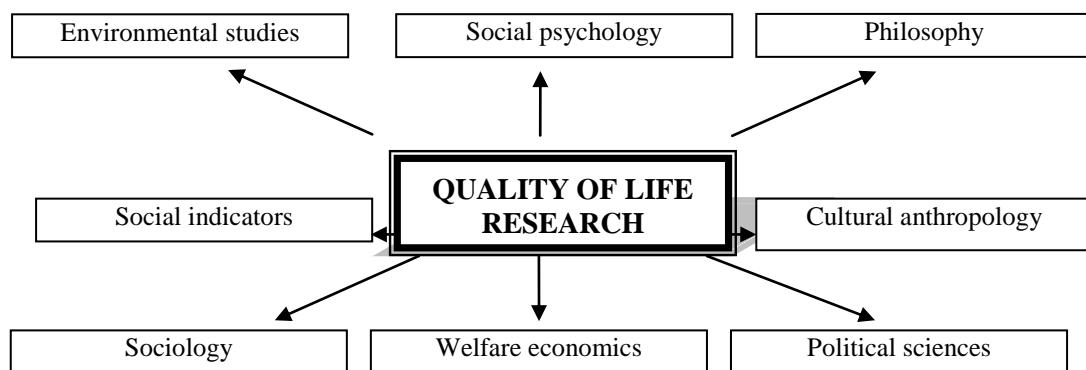


Fig. 1.

¹**Charles Wright Mills** (1916-1962) American sociologist who published in 1959 the book, „Sociological Imagination” in which he launches his own theory on the relationship between biography and social environment, author of the volume „Power Elite” in which he makes a study on power and class structures.

The study of the quality of life is made taking into account the fundamental human rights: the right to life, the right to liberty, the right to happiness, basic civil and political rights, economic and social rights. Each individual or community, by observing these rights, tries to establish its own strategy to get an optimal satisfaction with respect to their targeted quality of life [6]. By analyzing the evolution of the rules from Maslow's model of human needs it can be concluded that the developed societies are characterized by the ability to offer their members opportunities to meet the need of „Being," including the need to become someone [7].

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights(1948) proclaims, in addition to civil and political rights economic, social and cultural rights „indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality" [8]. Without being a treaty with the force of law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a normative document that creates certain legal obligations for UN Member States.

Would it be possible for us, to improve the quality of life by specific actions? My answer is YES, but we should start from the reality of defining the quality of life which is done in many ways and can have different meanings from one person to another. These definitions vary from vague expressions such as: „what everybody wants to be" or „the ability to live a normal life" to complex and elaborated formulations that emphasize one aspect or another, such as achieving individual goals. Since each individual's aspiration corresponds to a certain level of needs and desires in a given context, since it has certain resources and carries out certain activities, the concept of the quality of life can be done as in Fig.2. [9].

The analysis of the structure of the quality of life shows that, in terms of resources, activities and framework (Fig. 2), the level of one's cultural training plays an important role, the values and beliefs, the conceptions of the world, the knowledge of laws, the customs, the art and language ennobling the man and differentiating it from other species. Culture is the "coating" of humans, and in its absence, they would be just animated dolls, robots that could not carry out an order without the proper instructions. I consider that, all the other factors that have also an important role in the development of the quality of life it is necessary to be presented in our literature.

Knowledge, culture and professional training contribute decisively to the formation of the individual and of its complex personality. The more educated and intelligent an individual is the more he will adapt in society, the more he will succeed in life. He acts and gives a meaning to his actions, improving, thus, the quality of life.

According to the literature, there is a focus on developing a rich and rational knowledge in youths to guide them in today's world to find solutions to the

complex problems of the contemporary world and to allow their social and professional insertion. Many areas could compete in the formation and development of their knowledge horizon, but a significant role is played by the place and role of the Romanian culture in Europe and in the world. Looking back, we see that there are several achievements in our history that we can be proud of, achievements that should become a permanent stimulating factor to achieve new heights of success.

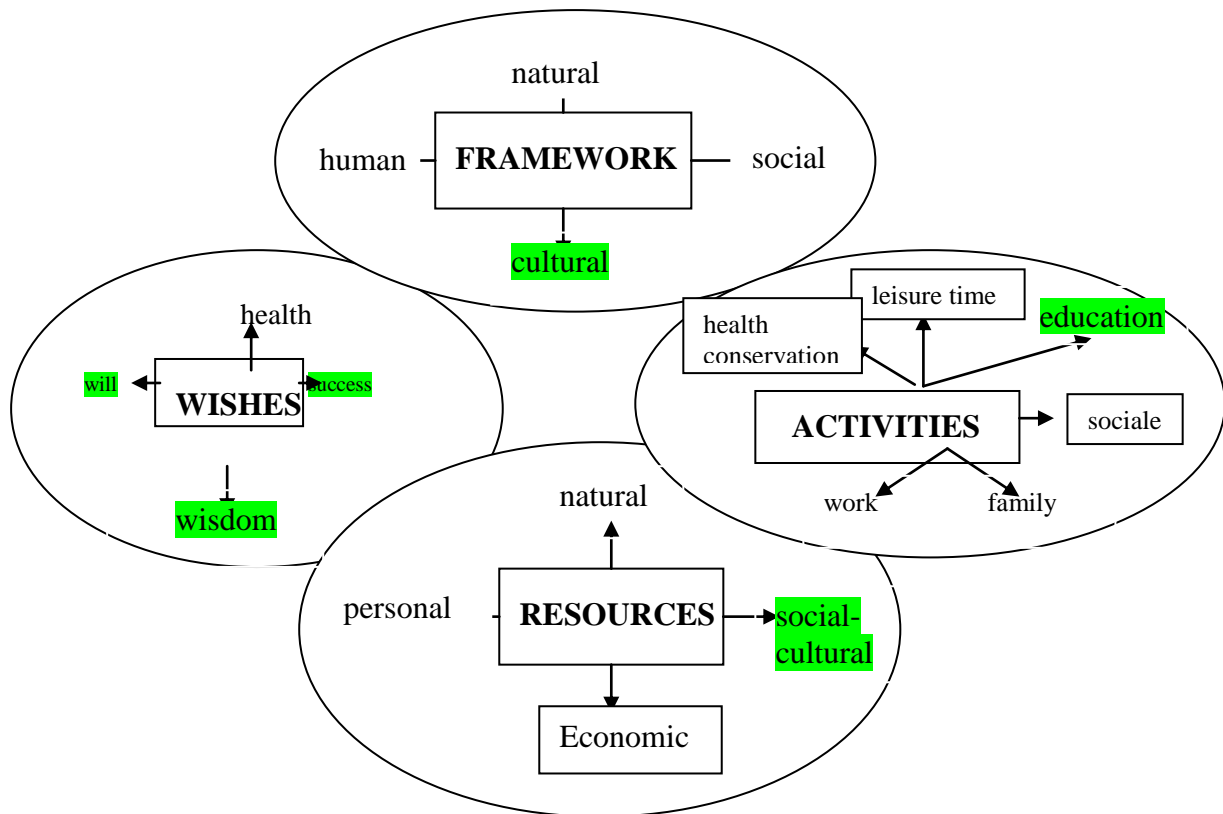


Fig. 2.

The Academician Dan Berindei, claimed in a paper [10] that „The historical heritage should occupy a special position in the development of a country since it occupies a special position in the collective memory of that nation as well. Like nature itself, this heritage has to be protected and respected. The destruction of some of its components is equivalent to their removal from history, with the eternal abandonment of some parts of the national treasury”.

In 1981, Academician Virgil Candea argued, based on what Academician Nicolae Iorga had said in the book entitled „The Place of the Romanian People in World History” [11], that not only the geographical layout, the hydrographical system, the configuration of the area, the climate and resources, in which the Romanian

people had developed, led to its perenniality, but also „the creative spirit of our nation, the accumulation of achievements and their transmission in time as civilizing values, and the preservation of the former traditions by the next generations, with which they felt they form a unitary whole, beyond the boundaries of conventional history”[12].

3. The Romanian culture since its first steps in history till the 21st century

The unanimously appreciated and worldwide accepted researches of the archaeologist Mariga Gimbutas, an American woman of Latin origin and a researcher at the British historians from The University of Cambridge and of the ethnologist Daniel Ruzo from Peru have led to the conclusion that the space where our ancestors lived, between the Carpathians, the Danube and the Black Sea, was one of the centers of the European civilization, under different aspects.

The remains of the oldest civilization on the territory of the Carpathians have been identified on Mureş River bed and banks. Turdaş center, situated about 10 km from Simeria, and gave its name to a Neolithic culture from the second half of the 5th millennium B.C. After the destruction of the Turdaş site by a flood of Mures, the investigations have been focused on Tărtăria, located on Mureş River about 14 km upstream from the town of Sebeş. The diggings started in Tărtăria in 1942-1943 and continued in 1961 led to the identification of three written pieces of ceramic, two pierced and one round, subsequently determined to be 7,000 years old by using the radioactive carbon dating. The ceramic plates, identified at Tărtăria, drew the attention of the Romanian, Bulgarian, Russian and Hungarian archaeologists. In 1972, the Bulgarian historian Vladimir I. Georgiev said that those writings were one millennium older than the Sumerian writings, considered to be the oldest writings in the world [13]. The Hungarian researchers Ianosi Makka and Evzen Nustupny considered that the plates from Tărtăria belonged to the Turdaş culture and the Russian scientist Boris Perlov highlighted their importance in 1975, by publishing a book on the plates from Tărtăria and the article „The Living Words of Tărtăria” in the Soviet magazine “Tech - Youth”. The Soviet historian A. Kilişin drew a map which showed that our ancestors have exercised a strong influence on the culture of the ancient world [13].

The „We, the Thracians” bulletin published in Milan by Iosif Constantin Drăgan republished in November 1976 Boris Perlov's article from 1975, and the Engineer Paul Lazăr Tonciulescu published in 1994 the book „From Tărtăria to the Country of Luana” and others.

In 2000, Haral Harmann, a researcher from Brussels, resumed the fulminating theory according to which writing was invented in the Tărtăria geographical area in 5,500 BC and, obviously, before Summer, but, especially, before ancient

Greece, ancient Egypt, before the civilizations of the Indus Valley, before China and Central America. He advanced this theory at a meeting held in Milan on „the origins of writing”, relying on the study of the archaeological evidence from Serbia, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Romania (Tărtăria). The thesis, according to which human civilization began in the Balkans, where the Romanian territory lies nowadays, is a controversial thesis. However, the tangible evidence must be taken into account: a 42000 year-old Homo sapiens skull discovered in Anina, the plates from Tărtăria, Cucuteni culture, etc.

Fifteen years ago, an archaeological team led by Professor Dr. Florin Drașovean, from the Museum of Banat, Timișoara and Professor Dr. Wolfram Schier, from the Institute of Prehistory, Berlin, began excavations in the area of the Gomila site, the largest settlement in Romania that belonged to Vinca culture and which is representative of the Neolithic period, located near the Uivar, a centre from Timiș district. Traces of the Vinca culture have been identified in Serbia, Romania and Hungary. On the territory of our country, in the Gomila site, several houses and one two-story house have been discovered, which, after testing, proved to be 7,000 years old. Professor Florin Drașovean said: “This discovery changes completely our vision of the Neolithic¹. It seems I was wrong to assume that the people of that period did not have much technical knowledge. The discovered two-story house proves that there were specialized people who knew exactly how to raise storied houses” [14].

We must know how we evolved in time. „The Romanians are born poets” said Vasile Alecsandri in his lyrics while Henri Coanda said „How fortunate the world would be if there were more nations to bring it – in terms of the number of inhabitants – as much as the Romanian nation has brought it over the past 120 years”. We have huge spiritual resources and, at the same time, an extraordinary gift to express them in artistic forms. From the Dacs we probably inherited a sense of proportions and harmony and the ability of the vast creative syntheses. Brâncuși, famous all over the world for his sculptures, is the triumph of the Dacian genius.

Nearly four decades ago, Paul Cornea wrote in „The origins of the Romanian romance” that: „The year 1821 can be considered, symbolically, the parting line which separates the old Romanian society – characterized by orthodoxy, patriarchal and semi-Oriental customs, a land out of time and passive to history attacks – from the new, secular, Western, dynamic, present society, open to the dialogue of cultures”. Tudor Vladimirescu’s insurrection led not only to the

¹ Neolithic (gr. Neos-new and lithos-stone) - period in the history of humanity which characterised the Romanian territory between approximately 6000 BC and 1900 BC. In the Neolithic Age the household crafts had been developed: spinning, pottery, weaving and housing crafts.

replacement of the Phanariot rulers¹, who ruled over the Romanian Countries, with native rulers, but also to the Europeanization, for the first time in history, of the issue related to the Romanian Principalities [15].

The lessons provided by the first modernization, begun by the generation of 1848, based on the great European ideas and by the formation of Greater Romania could have been our salvation. Let's not forget what the academician Dan Berindei said. "Modern Romania was built by less than 100 young people who studied in the West and especially in Paris, in 1848." [10]. With no faxes, no internet or mobile phones, but with devotion and patriotism, formed in the spirit of the great European ideas. This is also a lesson for us: our ancestors took Romania from the Middle-East area and the Ottoman heritage and led it to the West.

Between 1821 and the setting up of Greater Romania, Romania was in a very interesting phase of modernization. After 80-100 years, Romania has turned from a Phanariote country into a European country. Let's not forget our leaders' mistake right after 1938! They did not understand that, after they had formed Greater Romania, they also had to make it better.

Subsequently, it was not by chance that Romania's Sovietization Plan, developed by NKVD, aimed at seizing all documents and data related to the products of intellectual property, at destroying the bourgeois „meritocracy” and reversing the set of values. In one of the directives for the sovietisation of Romania, the invaders have instigated those set to rule not to hire professionals, based on value criteria, but low-skilled people, just because they were obedient. Mediocrity overmatched value.

In the early twentieth century, Romanian scholars, researchers and constructors had significant contributions to the progress of world science and technology: Traian Vuia - the first aircraft manufacturer in the world, who took off only with the equipment available on board, Dimitrie Pompeiu - outstanding contributions to the theory of functions, Henri Coandă - the first experimental flight in the world with a jet plane, Stefan Procopiu - one of the top physicists in the world, who calculated the magnetic moment of the electron, Anghel Saligny - the constructor of the bridge over the Danube at Cernavoda, technical construction and work of art of high aesthetic value - which has become the symbol of achieving unity between the scientific culture and the humanist one, Gheorghe Constantinescu – the author of the theory of sonicity. At the beginning of the 20th century, Ioan Cantacuzino discovered that some germs could become agglutinable, and, nowadays, this interesting fact of acquired and transmissible

¹The Turkish Phanariote rules were over one century old. The first Phanariote rulers have been: 1711 (Nicolae Mavrocordat ruler of Moldavia 1711-1715) and 1715 (Nicolae Mavrocordat ruler of Wallachia 1715-1716 and 1719-1730).

agglutinity is known in science, as the Cantacuzino phenomenon. Moreover, C.I. Parhon published the first treaty of endocrinology in the world, Dragomir Hurmuzescu made an electroscope named after him and he also created a new electric insulator – dielectrine, Traian Lalescu published the first monograph in the world devoted to the theory of the integral equations, Gh. Titeica was one of the pioneers of the differential and projective geometry [16].

The following persons have entered the gallery of the great personalities of the world science in the 20th century: Alexandru Proca – theoretical discoverer of the mesons; Gheorghe Spacu - pioneer in the field of complex combinations; Costin Nenitescu – for his original researches in organic and industrial chemistry; Ilie Murgulescu – for his fundamental works in physical chemistry; Gheorghe Ionescu-Sisești - creator of a Romanian variety of wheat and of an original irrigation system; Constantin Motaș – creator of freatobiology; Nicolae Paulescu – discoverer of insulin.

Due to their continuing efforts, the great representatives of the domestic science schools became famous. Although most of their results are internationally acknowledged, there are still some, including those of Stefan Procopiu (the discovery of the magnetron), Nicolae Paulescu (the creator of pancreine who published his discovery in August 1921 in an article in the Belgian journal “Archives de psychologies”), Radu Codreanu, who, in 1946, at the inauguration of the Department of General Biology at the University of Bucharest, predicted the significance of the molecular biology for evolutionism and laid down the complementary double aspect, the historical and current causal ones of the conceptual structure of biology (that the famous American evolutionist Ernst Mayr set forth in 1981 in „Biologie de l’evolution”) which are waiting, even in the 21st century, to be recognized as international priorities[16].

In 1938-1939, Stefan Odobleja published in Paris the paper ”La psychology consonantiste”, the first paper in the history of the world science, in which the author formulated, analyzed and implemented a set of general laws and concepts which are fundamental for complexity science (including the inverse connection), representing the essence of complex systems’ functioning (biotic, social, technical, etc. systems) with more or less pronounced automatisms, regardless of their nature. Although he did not use the term „cybernetics”, Odobleja identified and applied its general principles in the analysis of the physical, biotic, economic and social processes and he formulated the reversibility law, which is one of the general laws of the cybernetic loops and became the most important Romanian precursor of cybernetics[16].

Eugen Macovschi (1906-1985), addressed, since 1936, the permeability of the living membranes, then of the artificial ones and, in 1958, his studies on the

structure of the living matter led him to the bio structural theory, which resulted in new ideas and biological researches: the quality of water and components in the living tissues, the origin of the encephalographic waves, defining the material substrate of abstract thinking and of the psychotropic phenomena, the plurality of the structural levels of the living matter in units and others. His concepts have opened new perspectives in the field of cancer genesis, pharmacology and ecology, contributing at the same time to the development of other scientific fields, such as those related to field theory, the analysis of the living matter as a hierarchical cybernetic system [17].

Nicholas Georgescu Roegen¹ (1906-1994), one of the greatest theoreticians of the economic science of the twentieth century, who made the alliance between economics and mathematics, hereby bringing rigor and depth to econometry and extending the scope of mathematics. Based on some multidisciplinary research and approaches, Georgescu Roegen reviewed and substantiated a number of laws related to the relationship between humans-society and nature, including, extending the action of the second law of thermodynamics (entropy law) at different levels of societal and environmental organization, which can be used to estimate and assess the human impact on the environment and the environmental influences on humans within the low and high-entropy processes [18].

Joseph M. Juran (1904 -2008), an American citizen of Romanian origin-is known as the most important international expert in quality management. His concepts, principles, methods, and tools - some of them developed and published in the interwar period - are now widely recognized and applied in organizations throughout the world and his books are still considered particularly important benchmarking papers. All these achievements have brought their author his well-deserved reputation of „Global quality gurus”. Joseph M. Juran is particularly famous for the shift from „conventional” management to competitive management. He is known as the one who added the social dimension to the statistical quality control and who had a vital contribution to the emergence of what is called „Total Quality Management–TQM” [18].

Anghel Rugină² (1913-2008), a well-known specialist in finance, currency and credit, was noticed by the great economists of the time, during his second doctoral dissertation from 1942 in Freiburg (Germany). During the stages of the economic evolution of the last six-seven decades, Anghel Rugină has changed canons, contributing decisively to the elimination of the sketchiness of the accepted ideas. His innovative theories are based on the idea that humans and not the maximum

¹Nicholas Georgescu Roegen, economist and mathematician of Romanian origin, U.S. citizen, honorific member from abroad of the Romanian Academy (3 July 1990)

²Rugină Anghel, economist of Romanian origin, U.S. citizen, honorific member from abroad of the Romanian Academy (13 November 1990)

profit are the main priority. In a more general plan, Anghel Rugină handled the problem of the optimum in economy, of the stability and social justice and he argued for what is called free social exchange without any imbalances, inequities and tensions, where the individual is protected from excess and power interference. In sign of appreciation for his contributions, Anghel Rugină hold the chair of the World Congress of the International Society for the Intercommunication of New Ideas in Economics was chaired, for several years [18].

In 1997, at the Isaac Newton Institute for Physics, the University of Cambridge (Great Britain), Dr. Physicist Alexandru Popescu led a team of specialists in quantum physics that made the first successful teleportation experiment. He teleported a photon and opened new horizons in fundamental physics research. Teleportation became an actual method of particle remote transmission and, probably, the teleportation of bodies or living beings will be made possible in the future.

The Romanian architects have also become famous abroad. Dan Hanganu (born in 1939) graduated from the Institute of Architecture of Bucharest in 1961 and in the '70s of the twentieth century went to France and then to Canada, residing initially in Toronto and then in Montreal, where he continues to live and where he owns an architecture office downtown. He designed several great buildings in Montreal and he is currently the most valued architect in Montreal. His most important works include Pointe-a-Calliere Museum, Saint-Benoit-du-Lac Monastery, Cirque du Soleil studio and HEC Montreal (Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales). Dan Hanganu's business occupation has been rewarded so far with over 50 awards for excellence in architecture. In 2008, he received the prestigious gold medal of the Royal Institute of Architecture in Canada, the medal being granted by an association that brings together nearly 3,700 architects[18].

The Romanian scientists have always been an integral part of the international scientific community. The Romanian teachers and researchers have been since 1848, maybe with the exception of some interruptions during the period 1947 - 1989, in a perfect synchronism with the European and international scientific research, and sometimes, as I have shown, they have often been pioneers. Also, the Romanian academic community is always on the move and it communicates with the Western countries, contributing to the development of the interdisciplinary research and to the symbiosis between the basic and applied research and between science and engineering [16].

The Romanian scientific and technical thought and creation have benefited from the global scientific movement and they contributed to and integrated, naturally, in this movement. The only disadvantage that our country had was that, being one

of the small- or medium-sized countries, it did not have the necessary means to support and disseminate its material and spiritual creations.

This brief overview of the most representative Romanian acts and scientific personalities shows that the Romanian culture was formed by combining the scientific, humanist and technical cultures and that the Romanian cultivated people have been active with respect to intellectual creation. Some of them have been recognized, yet others are still waiting for their international recognition. It is the duty of all the Romanian scientists to make sure that this recognition becomes a fact.

We live today in the information age and the information society tends to become a knowledge society that foreshadows the conscience society [19]. The Romanian Sustainable Development Strategy, „Horizon 25”, discussed at the Palace of the Parliament on 2 September 2004, states in Section V, „Communications and Information Technology” that „Information Society is an objective for the development of the country and not a goal in itself, it is an essential component of the political and economic development programme and a major condition for the integration of Romania into the Euro-Atlantic structures”. On the first page of Chapter 2, „Information Society in Romania”, Section V of the Strategy provides „the cultural change towards the use of the services of the information society, the facility of capabilities development through education and communication” and in Subchapter 4.1 of the same Section it is considered a priority to “Impose knowledge as a critical determinant factor of the economic growth and standard of living, fact which is supported by consensus by the statements of OECD and the World Bank from the last years” [20].

Currently, when all the nations are interested in reviewing their national cultural heritage to determine what they received to develop their national culture and what they gave to the universal culture, every nation has an obligation to assess its contribution to the development of humanity to become aware of the place and role of its national culture in Europe and in the world.

4. The need to write and disseminate papers concerning the place and the role of the Romanian culture in Europe and in the world

Our nation, always confronted with misfortunes, as the chronicler said, had to struggle to succeed. Statistical studies show that several languages and dialects will disappear, including the Romanian language. Only the knowledge and the international dissemination of culture could save from oblivion a language whose speakers have disappeared. This is another reason for which the Romanian culture has to be made known in the world [18].

Since the place and role of the Romanian culture in Europe and in the world has not been, essentially, addressed in our national literature, it's necessary to emphasize the need to determine the contribution that the Romanian nation and culture had to the development of humanity.

If Romania does not implement with determination and consistency, in accordance with the provisions of the international conventions¹ to which it adhered and with the public interest, effective measures for the protection of the cultural heritage and its inclusion in the major projects for sustainable development, new and consistent publications about the role of the our national culture in Europe and in the world, would help reduce the risk of the irretrievable loss of the national cultural heritage, loss determined by both historical and more recent causes.

The echoes of the Romanian discoveries and inventions may be still heard in the world if we make a thorough research and documentation. We have to return to the roots, to archives, to ancient documents. To achieve this objective we should not rely solely on the written literature, we should not forget that the water drunk from a tap, and not directly from the source, and for this purpose has the same smells like the tap. Any science book is written by one or several authors, members of some communities, potential representatives of some group interests, and any written book bears, more or less, the influence of the political, economic and social conditions of the age in which its author lived, and of the period in which it was written or rewritten or transcribed by others.

The need to write debate and approve a national cultural strategy to reflect that there are many cultural interconnections is, recently, discussed in the Romanian literature. If these interconnections continue to be ignored, it would mean that we build a fragmentary vision, which ignores some essential aspects and which is completely different from the European concept of culture². The national cultural strategy should cover not only the means of generating new cultural products, new knowledge, but also culture dissemination throughout the country (and not only in schools but also through training programmes for the 3rd generation) and the propagation of the cultural values abroad. [21]. There is an urgent need to rewrite

¹ For instance, in 2003, UNESCO adopted the Convention for Saving the Immaterial Cultural Heritage involving governmental bodies in the conservation of traditions and oral expressions, the arts, social practices and many other representative elements. The dance of the „Călușari” is among the list of the 90 items that must be preserved.

² C.P. Snow's works („*The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*”-1959 and „*The Two Cultures: a second look*”1963, republished in 2000) clarifies at European level the need for a total culture that will integrate the humanist culture with the scientific one.

a Romanian Encyclopaedia¹, in written and electronic format, which would be a great work of synthesis of our cultural values, a testimony of the devotion of the intellectuals of the time to the Romanian cultural ideals and which would present, without political bias, responsibly and comprehensively, the personalities of the Romanian culture. It is not a simple thing to fulfill such a task. Project - „Nicolaus Olahus - Partnership to ensure the quality of life by updating and developing mentalities and rules” - launched by „The Scientific Union of the Romanian University People” (SURUP) and carried out between 1995 and 1996 and its status in 2009 proved how difficult it has been to implement a such project. To successfully achieve the objective to write about the place and the role of the Romanian culture in Europe and in the world, it's necessary to be a better communication and a better cooperation between the Romanian scientists from all the fields of activity. Separating the scientists and the technical experts in ivory towers will not lead to such results.

The economically developed countries owe their success, according to David Landers—a distinguished professor of history and economics from Harvard University (1991)—, to the fact that the economists of these countries have taken into account, in determining their development strategy, a number of difficult-to-quantify factors, including „the cultural differences in the sphere of aspirations”. This idea was supported by Mugur Isărescu, the governor of the Romanian National Bank, who stated in 1996 that ”the preparation for our integration and people's acceptance of the solutions will depend on their culture and aspirations”. These arguments give us the right to say that both the civil society and especially those, whose responsibility is to find solutions to society problems, need to understand and become aware that evolution means change not only in structures, but also in mentalities. If a national cultural strategy is not developed and implemented in the next 5-7 years, the current mentalities will not be changed and we will never evolve. This strategy has to generate and disseminate our culture across the country and also to advance the Romanian values abroad.

¹”Little dictionary of technical words and other words which are difficult to understand” was published in 1851, at the „Tipografia Buciumului Roman” of Iași. It included, with explanations, 4290 words of the following fields: law, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, grammar and agriculture. This, Little dictionary” by Teodor Stamati was the first attempt to publish an Encyclopedia in the Romanian territory. The first Romanian Encyclopedia was published in 1898-1904 in three volumes, under the auspices of the Transylvanian Association for the Romanian literature and the culture of the Romanian people (ASTRA). The second, Romania's Encyclopedia was published in 1938-1943 in 4 volumes by the Publishing House “The National Association for Encyclopedias” and the third Romanian Encyclopedic Dictionary in four volumes, was published in 1964 by The Political Publishing House. In 1993 The Encyclopedic Publishing House of published in 4 volumes an Encyclopedic Dictionary. Subsequently, several attempts have been made, repeatedly, to publish a new Romanian Encyclopedia.

It is necessary to set and achieve this objective by 2018, at the Centenary of Greater Romania and that is why I propose to set the deadline in 2015–2016 for the assumed task, of coordinating the elaboration, in written and electronic form, of papers on the place and role of the Romanian culture in Europe and the world.

5. Conclusions

1. An individual's knowledge, culture and vocation contribute decisively to his formation and determine his complex personality. The more educated and scientifically trained an individual is the easier for him to adapt to the new social conditions and to succeed in life. By giving a meaning to his actions, he contributes to improving the quality of life. A special role in forming and developing Romanians' horizon of knowledge is played by the citizens' awareness of the place and role of their national culture in Europe and in the world.

2. Updating this task, according to which the Romanian scientists will participate in developing, for each scientific field, papers of national and international value to highlight the contribution of the Romanian culture to the development of the universal culture will lead to the following results:

- It will reveal how we are reflected by what we have achieved in the conscience of the world;
- The horizon of knowledge of the Romanian youth will be developed. A rich and logically developed horizon of knowledge might be a guide for the young people in today's world that will help them solve the complex problems of the contemporary world;
- The Romanian nation will be included, with the necessary dignity, in the universal culture, and our qualities and spiritual wealth, our entire national cultural heritage, will be assessed at its true value;
- Worldwide dissemination of the national cultural values will facilitate the integration of our country into the European Union and reduce the risk of being, if not „excluded" from among the cultured nations, at least marginalized, thrown into the dark, sometimes deliberately, sometimes out of ignorance;
- The risk of irretrievably losing our national cultural heritage will be reduced;

- Important steps will be made for the Romanian nation and culture to become self-conscious and the effect of the current mentalities, which delay our development, will be reduced.

3. The Romanian scientist should start writing papers to point out the contribution of the Romanian culture to the development of the universal culture. It should also stimulate the development of the national cultural strategy aiming at generating and disseminating culture throughout the country and at promoting the Romanian values abroad. This will be good for the moral of our country;

4. Writing and publishing papers concerning the place and the role of the Romanian culture in Europe and in the world will, implicitly, contribute to improving the quality of life of the Romanian people.

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