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PHD THESIS SUMMARY

The contribution of the francophony to the construction of the european cultural heritage
and european identity

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Motto: *"I believe, for the future, in the integrated francophony (...) in a large whole, and beyond, in a civilization of the Universal."*

(Léopold Sédar Senghor)

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2. INTRODUCTION

The status of European multiculturalism is currently being debated, both at the political and administrative level, as well as in the academic and social sphere. In its support, the importance of various cultural-linguistic components is outlined, such as francophony, humanist and progressive through historical tradition, but also through the current European context, in close relation with the scope of communication in all spheres of life, with the digital world, as well as with economic globalization. The multiculturalism addressed in the present doctoral thesis does not mean a simple association of cultural specificities, but an action approach with a common central goal, namely that of European unity and integration.

The complex francophony (cultural, economic, social, political, administrative, organizational, etc.) has its own role in the formation and maintenance of the European identity, possible both through an identity approach of structure, expression and typical action, as well as through the plurality of the new Europe; francophony is both a component of the European identity and an identity type from the spectrum of multiple identities. At the same time, francophony has contributed and continues to contribute to the formation of the common European heritage, together with the other cultural-linguistic vectors of Europe, in conditions where on the one hand there is a need to revitalize the cultural-historical francophony and on the other hand the insertion of new patrimonial elements of the contemporary francophony is noteworthy, such as the economic component, the technological one, the organizational sphere, the extended communication function, all of which support the adaptation of reporting to a different *Alter* (lat.) and the establishment of consensus and cooperation.

Francophony itself represents a spectrum of cultural diversity, a reflection of natural diversity and is also part of European plurality, which allows it to contribute to the consolidation of European multiculturalism and plurilingualism. Diversity and tolerance in Europe must be imposed today, including through state and continental public policies, especially since the contemporary world needs resilience to solve economic, political, cultural, medical, military societal problems. My thesis considers francophony through the prism of the principle of equality and intercultural tolerance and approaches it from the perspective of a post-national multiculturalism, in which it contributes to European identity and integration, thanks to the valuing of its own unique heritage. Francophony (along with germanophony, italophony, hispanophony, anglophony etc.) brings its contribution to the realization of a functional formula of multiculturalism, supporting European identity and consciousness

and allowing in the future the objectification of the political principle of European citizenship and interactive plurality, in the context influenced by digitalization and globalization.

The two case studies that this thesis presents concern Romania and Switzerland, from the perspective of francophony. Switzerland, a member of the International Organization of Francophony but not of the European Union, has an important francophone area (I am referring here both to the francophone part of the country, Suisse Romande, but also to the fact that French is one of the official languages of the country and at the same time under multiple facets - mother tongue, communication, secondary acquisition, organizational, administrative, cultural etc.). At the same time, it highlights a "plurilingual nationalism" (the phrase belongs to me), which allows a special policy through which diversity is managed, a valorization of the Swiss specificity but also a tolerance and understanding of plurality and cosmopolitanism. Romania, a country of the International Organization of the Francophony and of the European Union, has an important cultural-historical tradition linked to France but also an economic, political, administrative and educational current in relation to the French-speaking world; therefore, I considered it very important to identify and detail the motivation underlying the learning of the French language and the knowledge of the complex francophony in the Romanian space, calling for this information provided by both theoretical documents and the results of empirical research, which certified francophones and adherents to francophony, present in the Romanian space and who know, value and promote the complex francophone spectrum, gave the course.

Europeanism can extract its advantages from the co-optation of francophony (but also of the other European cultural-linguistic components), and the Europeans, whose identity construction can be carried out in multiple and procedural forms and facets, in harmony with each other, will be able to value, in the quality of identities and European citizens, Francophony - the emblem of European plurilingualism and multiculturalism, in close connection with universal human and citizenship rights.

The scientific analysis of the complex francophony, from the perspective of its contribution to the common European heritage and to the identity and integration in Europe, in particular in the European Union, appears to be necessary in the academic world, that is why I am giving course through my doctoral thesis to this research need, in this favorable period for such an analysis, both thanks to the existing plurality at the European level, as well as the need to find the socio-cultural, educational and administrative-political levers to manage diversity on the European continent, to resolve the differences of contemporary society and of restoring the value, in a fair way, of both francophony and all the other vectors of European plurality, for a humanist and modernist future of "unity in diversity" in Europe.

3. OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH PARADIGMS

This doctoral thesis aims to highlight the status of the complex francophony in a Europe of multiculturalism and to prove the fact that it represents a building factor of the common European heritage but also of the European identity, for the latter thanks to linguistic and cultural pluralism. The European identity structure, approached from a multiple perspective, serves both European integration and the application of the political principle of European citizenship, as well as the initiation and development of social, cultural, administrative, economic and political interventions aimed at solving the problems and crises of the current society.

My research approach had 5 major objectives in mind: the first aims to reveal the contribution of the francophony to the common heritage, the second aims at the analytical evaluation of the prospects held by the francophony within the framework drawn by the European political project, globalization and digitalization, the third aims to highlight the contribution of plurilingualism in the sphere of European identity formation, the fourth is related to the presentation of two case studies (the course of francophony in Romania and the plurilingual nationalism of Switzerland), and the fifth objective highlights the motivation and opportunities for learning the French language and knowledge French and Francophone culture in Romania, as an element that definitely influences language education policies. Thus, I sought to find out in what way and how much the complex francophony (linguistic, economic, cultural, organizational, political, etc.) can be reinvigorated, including aspects related to learning the French language, within the pluralistic and united framework of the European Union. Then, I focused on knowing the perspectives of French in the current digital and anglicized era, but also in the context of plurilingualism. Thirdly, I tried to explain how plurilingualism can be objectified from a political point of view, in relation to the reality of learning the French language. Next, I presented the Romanian francophony, both from the point of view of the historical-cultural and educational past, as well as from the perspective of the present, with more economic, communicational, technological, corporatist and migratory account, in the conditions in which Romania is the country of the European Union, which can capitalize on the opportunities offered by European pluralism. Finally, I emphasized the motivation and importance of the French language and the knowledge of French and Francophone culture in our country, as a determining element of public policies but also from the perspective of its situation in the context of the diversity of the European continent.

Francophony, as the main thematic field in my doctoral project, is located in the context designated by Europeanism, liberalism, plurilingualism and multiculturalism. The paradigmatic structure to which I appeal is complex, including in the first instance multiculturalism, in this case the vision expressed by Kymlicka (1995), who associates multiculturalism with liberalism, in order to support diversity. He insists on collective rights, but also on the equality of opportunities initially allowed by the state (or, if we extrapolate, by the supra-national structure), thanks to some public policy measures (Kymlicka, 2003), the citizens being the ones who will later have to take attitude and to decide on the greater or lesser importance of one community or another. In this vision, we can place, for example, the vectors of European plurilingualism and multiculturalism (francophony, italianophony, germanophony, hispanophony, etc.), but also European regional (including minority) structures. Secondly, I rely on functionalism and federalism - as theories of European integration. Functionalism mainly aims at a theory of consensus and cooperation, factors of maximum relevance in the diverse European context, and federalism, under the prerogative of a supra-national European structure, is useful to me for putting the light of the political principle of a united, pluralistic and integrative Europe, based on a fundamental common European heritage. I also refer to Haas's neo-functionalism, which had in mind the horizontal and vertical transfer of power, a principle that can be applied to Europe, but also Haas's "spill-over" concept, explained by Niemann (2016), which implies integrative changes in a certain sphere of interest, following the change from another, in an unexpected way (for example, the changes in anglophony can have an unexpected impact on those in francophony). I also appeal to the realism expressed by Carr (1939/2015), who has the merit of insisting on a realistic evaluation of social realities, according to which a power coefficient with a degree of security is attributed to one element or another in the societal context, so as it can be, for example, francophony. I also use the constructivism theorized by Berger and Luckmann, but also by Anderson, the latter insisting on the role of self-perception in the formation of an "imagined community" (Anderson, 1983/2006), to which francophony can also lend itself. I use the constructivism revealed by Berger and Luckmann (1966/1991) in the approach to the formation of multiple identities (European, plurilingual, national, cultural, personal, etc.): the social framework allows the modeling and construction of social realities to take place in and through it, calling to the individual and collective mental and imaginary, as well as to the "performative" function of language, described by Bourdieu (1982), which involves the transition from a verbalized reality to an applied one.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research intention related to the present thesis consists in proving that francophony, the component of the European linguistic and cultural plurality, can represent an element of construction, maintenance and promotion of the common European heritage and the European identity, which in turn underpins European consciousness and integration and ensures the implementation of the political principle of European citizenship and the means of solving the problems of contemporary society.

The 3 hypotheses that I formulated in a formula of causality between the dependent and the independent variable (Sandor, 2013) are the following:

1. "If the francophony is a relevant component of the common heritage, then it must be valued in the political context of European multiculturalism and in the formation of the European identity, emphasizing the motivation that is the basis of learning the French language and the knowledge and appreciation of the complex francophony" .
2. "If the European strategic option for plurilingualism and cultural diversity is adopted, then new opportunities are created for learning the French language, as the language of communication at the European and international level, highlighting the motivation of learning the French language and the knowledge of the complex francophony".
3. "If Europe is multicultural and plurilingual, then francophony can be an important tool in building and developing European identity - as a foundation for citizenship and European integration, as well as for solving contemporary societal problems".

The research methods we used are the analysis of documents, the questionnaire and the interview. The method of document analysis was approached in relation to the realization of the theoretical part of the thesis, in order to investigate the elements considered and their relationship: francophony, multiculturalism, plurilingualism, the motivation of learning the French language and the knowledge of the complex francophony, multiple identity, common heritage, European integration, but also to have a referential to which to report the data of the empirical research, which also confirmed and completed the information revealed by the analysis of the documents. The types of theoretical documents subjected to analysis were: informative and vulgarizing media documents in electronic format, including audio-video via the Internet, but also textual documents in "written paper" format, public (e.g. administrative

documents, newspapers, articles, books, etc. .) or private documents (memoirs, diaries, etc.). Document analysis, the questionnaire and the interview were used for descriptive, explanatory and predictive purposes. The structured questionnaire was applied online, thanks to a specific virtual platform; it targeted a number of 40 subjects (39 questionnaires were valid) and included 43 items. The structured interview was applied to a number of 10 subjects, based on an interview guide. The population sample subjected to the research was constituted by the "snowball method" (Marginean, 2000, p. 121), it being a convenience sample, and the subjects gave their consent to participate in the research. This sample was composed of people who have options, affinities and adherence to the complex francophony, being connoisseurs of the French language and interested in the specifics and evolution of the francophone. Thus, my research is circumscribed within the framework of the Romanian francophone community (Romanians with francophone and French heritage and francophones present in the Romanian space, connoisseurs of the French-speaking and Romanian specifics).

As the main limitations of the research, I mention the fact that the population sample is non-random, not having statistical representativeness, instead it has an important explanatory function, being made up of very good French-speaking people. The second limitation is that the historical course of francophony was not presented together with that of the other European linguistic-cultural vectors, because this would have involved epistemological difficulties and corroboration and inter-relation of information, but francophony was situated in a pluralistic perspective European.

The analysis and interpretation of the data was approached as an approach thanks to which the information resulting from the application of the three stipulated scientific research methods was evaluated, analyzed in detail, organized, synthesized, centralized and exposed, in order to present the result of the working hypotheses; in the case of my doctoral thesis, the three formulated hypotheses were confirmed by the research data, and the research data served me to emphasize some notes of originality of the thesis but also for predictions of scientific and general interest. I will refer to all this in the following 2 parts of this summary of my doctoral thesis.

5. SYNTHESIS OF THE CHAPTERS OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

This doctoral thesis represents an approach to the knowledge and support of francophony, based on the arguments circumscribed by the principle of diversity, which characterizes multiculturalism. It has contributed over time to the existence and formation of the European heritage, within which the complex francophony is one of the promoters of universal human values: tolerance, cooperation, equality, unity, etc., constituting one of the vectors of the cultural and linguistic plurality of Europe. In my doctoral thesis, I originally transferred the principle of multicultural communities by Kymlicka (1995 and 2003) to the strategy of equity within diversity, which the state or supra-national authority (in this case the European Union) creates, in the idea situating the European linguistic-cultural components on a common egalitarian level, which I consider reflects the Kymlickian vision. In this way, a format of European existence is allowed, supported by public policies, which strengthens diversity, equality and unity, going beyond national selfishness, valuing the extended community and multiple identities, including the European one. Anticipating a form of formalized external protection of such broad cultural-linguistic structures, in accordance with human rights, policies supporting European citizenship can be developed and applied, based on a continental consciousness and identity conceived in various ways, with a beneficial effect for the individual mind and collectively of Europeans, under the conditions in which European cultural plurality is a reflection of natural and societal diversity. On the European continent, language and culture communities have their own identity and therefore require recognized rights, such as the right to organization, autonomy, education, association, public expression etc., which does not prevent the assumption of responsibilities and obligations, related to respect and acceptance to the others, of order and common heritage. This model applied by Kymlicka in Canada can be taken into account for the identity and linguistic-cultural communities (including francophony) in Europe, especially since there are opportunities for adapting the Canadian model, beyond the difficulties of immigration and the oscillating balance between cultures: I mean here to the possibility that the competent European political authorities add collective rights and appropriate policies for cultural minorities, which would favor language learning, international communication, the integration of minorities, the protection of regional cultures that are disappearing, as well as the feeling of belonging to Europe. The only limit in this direction is the fact that Kymlicka's theory does not take into account individual rights, which in Europe are targeted before collective ones by the responsible political forums, but this difficulty can be overcome by using the political principle of justice and tolerance, which lends itself to both individual and collective rights and reflects universal humanism; in addition, multiculturalism - supported by linguistic plurality and the facets of language use (national, regional, native, international,

acquisition, communication, etc.) is specific to the real contemporaneity and constitutes a subject of major academic and political interest. Along with this first element of originality of the thesis, namely the application of the Canadian multicultural liberal model to diverse Europe, by transferring Kymlicka's "multicultural citizenship" to the European framework, positive discrimination of disadvantaged groups, rights in support of cultural plurality and self-management of minorities, I add four more original elements: one would be to emphasize the importance of common heritage in the foundation of European identity and citizenship, a vision associated with that of de Birzea (2005), who supported the political principle of European citizenship on European identity, the next is represented by a conception of plurilingualism, also supported by the European forums, which allows the egalitarian inclusion of each language in the framework of European construction and integration and of the future of Europeanism, in which francophony, together with the other linguistic and cultural vectors, finds its well-deserved place; The penultimate note of originality is the applicability of Sartori's optics, explained by Andreescu (2007), which indicates that, in conditions where immigration can disrupt regional unity, it becomes necessary to support pluralism, based on mutual recognition between minorities and majorities and on a "dialectic of dissension", which is a permanently active tension that maintains the vigor and balance between the minority and the majority - a fact that lends itself correctly to today's European realities. Last but not least, I mention the fifth element of originality of the thesis, which considers the attachment of the "spill-over" function of Haas, repeated by Niemann (2016): there is a vivacity of supra-national identities (how can it be the French-speaking one), for the purpose of European identity-cultural and linguistic integration, under the dome of diversity, but also an evolution of the concept of "citizenship", for the purpose of European political insertion, authority transferring from one level to another horizontally and vertically and carrying out integrative transformations, based on the mutual and unexpected influences between various spheres of interest, identity and politics, considered unitary (for example, the influence of francophony on anglophony, italo-phony etc. in a European context, inter-regional and inter-continental influence etc.), in which an important role is played not only by human communities, but also by the interventions of European and international institutions.

At the European and national level, cultural, educational, linguistic, economic, administrative etc., public policies have an important role in supporting and promoting diversity. Linguistic policies favor respect for communication at the national, European and international level, the transmission of the importance and plurality of cultures, inter- and intra-cultural dialogue, educational-academic mobility, the importance of didactic contexts and language practice contexts, but also the positivity and evolution of

decision-making factors and political intervention. Conception, support, insertion and reporting of language policies is ensured by European and international institutional references, such as the Council of Europe, the European Union or the International Organization of Francophony, without forgetting that other international organizations, such as UNESCO or the ONU, mark the official use of various communication languages, including French. OIF was founded in 1970 and includes 88 countries, including Romania, with one of its missions being to promote the French language, plurilingualism and cultural diversity. An example of respect for plurilingualism, multiculturalism and francophony is Switzerland, approached as an in-depth theoretical case study in my doctoral thesis. The "Land of the Cantons" is characterized by what I called "plurilingual nationalism" and which aims at the fact that nationalism, considered an impediment to the European identity and to the unity of the complex francophony, surprisingly becomes, thanks to plurilingualism, a supporter of "unity in diversity". Switzerland, which does not possess a language unit, knows a form of nationalism (beyond the drifts of the Center Democratic Union, of course) expressed through patriotism and through a communication-type logic (Ipperciel, 2007), in which plurilingualism inscribed in Swiss law is primordial and supports cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism, thus blocking monocultural, unilingual and ethnocentric tendencies. The case of Switzerland is presented as a real exception to distorted nationalism, supporting a political culture of direct democracy, human rights, neutrality and shared values, which also emphasizes the institutional and social fight against extremist imbalances and the efforts of communication and dignified participation in the European space and international.

Francophony requires pluralistic approaches and not in artificial opposition to anglophony, but as part of the complex European diversity, in which the components influence each other and contribute to the European construction and to the pluralist European cultural heritage, which underpins Europe's identity. Francophony takes over and transmits values from and to the common European heritage, which it specifically nuances and confirms in the area of universal rights. It is a cultural identity of those who express their belonging to the use of the French language and the Francophone culture, and the French language can be used in several situations: the national language, the mother tongue, the language of communication, the diplomatic and civilizational language, the language of purchase etc.; it is also a component of regional, European and international linguistic and cultural plurality. In this context, it becomes important to know the motivation for acquiring French and other languages, both for individuals and for political and administrative decision-makers.

In Europe, plurilingualism is supported administratively-politically, so that francophony is situated in a pluralistic context and can no longer be attached to an ethnocentric and monocultural option of the past, it is currently a linguistic-cultural vector of the spectrum of plurilingualism and European multiculturalism. Today's Europe allows for the revitalization of the francophony: the European space presents itself as an opportune historical framework in which the francophony can fully contribute, in a unique and typical way, to the common European heritage and can be integrated into the European political project, supported precisely on the existence of a common heritage. Francophony has gone through history accompanied by general and perennial humanistic values, typified by enlightenment, republicanism, modernism, such as freedom, equality, fraternity, the value of reason, ethics and the word, social justice, respect for citizens, progress, dialogue, cooperation etc. through the prism of these values, it contributes to the construction of the European identity and confirms their existence in the European space, therefore also in that of other cultural heritages (anglophony, italophony etc.).

In the present technological, digital and globalist era, francophony appeals to the French language in the economic and business environment, along with English, German, Spanish, Dutch etc. In francophony, as a group of countries that have French as their preferred language, the geographic-economic framework for the corporate environment is ensured, including multiple projects with French as the project language. Francophony impregnates the corporate organizational culture with humanistic values, and economic francophony, supported digitally and in the process of development and expansion, is one of the current motivations for acquiring the French language and knowledge of Francophone culture. In Romania, companies with French capital and French-speaking corporate projects are multiplying; according to the French Embassy in Romania, the approximately 3,600 companies with French capital in our country provide 7.5% of GDP (French Embassy, 2023).

The Romanian francophony is the second case study that I presented in detail in this doctoral thesis, both following the analysis of the theoretical documents and thanks to the results of the empirical research provided by the questionnaire and the research interview. Romania knows a historical course of relations between our country and France, developed over several centuries, especially from the end of the 1700s until now. In the 18th century, the Romanian francophony was constituted especially as an expression of the Latin strand in the era dominated by the Phanariots, in the 19th century it circulated revolutionary, modernist and Europeanist principles, in the 20th century it supported the continuation of modern evolution and European belonging in the first half of the century, and in the second half it represented the symbol of freedom and resistance under communism and the "Iron Curtain"; in the 21st

century, francophony represents a component and a support of multiculturalism and plurilingualism within the European governance. Romania currently expresses its francophone side, not only through a brand of culture and history, but also through an economic, administrative, investment and progress, security, legal and corporate prerogative, through an insistence on sustainable development, innovation, profession, training, education and diplomacy. If in the past centuries, the reasons for learning French were related to culture, diplomacy, aristocracy, or resistance to communism, nowadays it receives the economic, professional, organizational-political, communication motivation, technologically supported and located in a framework of European diversity and international, motivation whose knowledge and support favors interventions adapted to public policy. In the continuation of my doctoral thesis, I turned my attention to the relationship between national identity, francophone identity, plurilingual identity, cultural identity, personal identity, European identity and citizenship (directed by a common interest and which represents a cultural and psychological construct with support at the level of European Union policies), in correlation with European integration and unity. We proved the existence of a multiple constructed identity, including the European identity - support of the political principle of European citizenship, having as a starting point different cultural entities and particular identities, moving from national and narrow to post/supra-national and extended. The identity changes and adapts to various projections and changes its symbolic referential, a context in which the francophony fits very well, the French language also acquiring a global dimension of the 5 continents (although our era has a strong anglophony, with economic and digital support). As linguistic and cultural plurality continues to assert itself, supported in *crescendo* by European policies, this fact can configure in the not too distant future a non-monopolized global framework of anglophony. In highlighting multiple identities, we applied the constructivist principles, in which identity types, components and facets are built within and through the social. Francophony, as an element of the European heritage, with French as one of the official languages of the E.U. and the Council of Europe, allows the francophone identity to be regarded as one of the cultural identities of Europe and the international world and to renounce the monoculturalism of the past and the slipping nationalism. Francophone culture is assumed by several entities (national, regional, global), going beyond the geographical and historical borders of France and that is why it is considered to be multicultural. Francophone cultural identity is assumed by free decision and takes into account the linguistic element as well, and in today's multicultural Europe it finds an area of reaffirmation and revalorization, by respecting the plurality and equality of languages, cultures and confessions (in this context, secularism is not the equivalent of institutional atheism, but of respect for any reli-

gion). The complex francophony is part of the past and present European heritage, it includes a cultural and linguistic diversity on 5 continents, it presents itself as having multiple facets (mother tongue, communication, acquisition, teaching and learning, international, etc.) and the francophone identity has various degrees of extension (local, community, national, regional, continental, international). Constructivism applied to identities creates a multiple identity palette, in which they transform and diversify in a European and international context, allowing procedures with beneficial individual, group, societal purpose. For example, the European identity of the individual and collective mind is capable of fulfilling the function of European integration, which is not only political and administrative, but also cultural. The European profile strengthens continental belonging and paves the way to positioning in the cosmopolitan international world as a "citizen of the world" (Birzea, 2005). This profile is also found in the case of European Romania, not simplistically, as a state geographically included in Europe, but as a country linked to the continental path and European heritage, a member of the European Union, insisting on deepening the European integration process and supporter of European plurality and the principle of Europeanism. In all this endeavor, francophony had an important contribution to the formation of national identity and to the confirmation and consolidation of Latinity in Romanian culture (19th century), as well as to the European multiculturalism to which Romania joined in the first part of the 20th century and in the 21st century. Our country has not preempted its efforts throughout history to remain in Europe politically, culturally, economically, administratively, linguistically and to be treated as a European country, which has its own contribution to the European heritage common effort also supported by an attachment and a French-speaking ethos known by the Romanian people throughout time, especially thanks to the friendship between Romania and France - an important and powerful political, historical, geographical, cultural and economic state in the space of united Europe, both countries strengthening European plurality and ensuring a pluralistic future on the «old continent».

6. CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Multiculturalism is a political aspiration of maximum importance in today's Europe, from the perspective of its role in the construction and functioning of the European Union, it being revealed and applied through policies, actions and through the allocated institutional framework, a context in which a primary role belongs to the management plurilingualism. This is an important reason why I devoted this doctoral thesis to the analysis of the contribution of francophony and plurilingualism, as specific structures for the manifestation of European multiculturalism, within the framework set by a society promoting "unity in diversity", in the European case, more taking into account that the present times allow the historical opportunity for the recognition of the equality of all languages, cultures and confessions. Throughout time, francophony has known cultural forms - values, norms and practices in the social space, but it has also found outlets for manifestation through organizational, institutional and applied politics, at the same time being situated as a linguistic element and known way of life. The complex francophony addressed in my doctoral thesis includes various aspects (cultural, linguistic, administrative, political, social, economic, organizational, corporate, etc.) but it is also treated as a subject of public policies and as a linguistic factor used in various institutional-organizational spaces that exceed the national framework (multinationals, international organizations, political institutions, etc.). In addition to its important role as a linguistic vector, francophony engages a set of values, institutions and social interventions, all of which belong to the specific heritage of francophony and the common heritage of European multiculturalism. Francophony is in the 21st century one of the elements that allow the legitimization of a new Europe of linguistic and cultural diversity, a context that allows francophony complex strategies of manifestation, being recognized on a continental and international level through the past and present patrimonial prism.

In today's multicultural Europe, plurilingualism is not only a reality, but also a necessity that must be supported socially, educationally and more politically, through the actions of European forums and through educational-linguistic, cultural, economic policies etc., at the European level and national, as well as by intensifying, valuing and supporting the use of foreign languages in all fields of activity and in everyday life (plurilingualism must also consider minority and regional languages). Multilingualism has a special function in ensuring European unity and integration, but also in achieving European identity; he reveals and promotes the maintenance of multiculturalism at the European level.

The French language, learned mainly for reasons of personal preference, professional need or following the school course, has a future together with that of the other languages of international circulation (and not only), but it needs public policy measures to improve the curriculum, the way of teaching, the valorization of the use of this language (for example, in the academic environment - mobility grants, bilingual higher education, experience exchanges, co-tuteles, etc.) etc.

Francophony is important for European cultural heritage, as such the options to know and preserve it are justifiable, especially since francophony has perspectives in relation to the political construction of a Europe of pluralism, in a globalized and digitized world. As the motivation for learning the French language and for the knowledge of the complex francophony increases, so does the involvement of francophones and francophiles in its extended theoretical and practical framework (and the reciprocal is valid). Francophony must be promoted in the EU, as the official language but also as part of the European cultural component, through these notes of connection increasing the motivation for learning the French language and for increasing the knowledge of the complex francophony, which can be revitalized in the pluralistic context of the European Union, where new opportunities are created to strengthen plurilingualism and the multicultural area. In Romania, a member of the E.U. since 2007, multiculturalism is gaining visibility, so that francophony, as part of this diversity can benefit from support and reevaluation, especially since, as my empirical research has revealed, the relations between the national language/culture of origin and the French language/francophone culture in the case of francophiles and francophones in our country, they are generally tight and harmonious, reinforcing each other; francophony is often considered compatible with the personal socio-cultural profile of the respondents, denoting characteristics of malleability and humanism of this cultural component, which can therefore lend itself to a diversity of individual profiles.

At the European level, through appropriate public policies, linguistic and cultural plurality can be supported, even if English currently shows dominant tendencies, favored by economic globalization and digitization, but this very fact can increase the motivation to learn and use other languages foreign languages other than English, including therefore by choosing francophony. The opposition between francophony and anglophony is artificial, therefore a situation in an egalitarian plurilingual framework, with political, educational, economic, digital support, etc., is more welcome and recommended, which creates an optimistic perspective including for francophony, increasing - learning and adherence are

also motivated, a fact that favors public policies directly supporting francophony, respectively linguistic ones, as well as indirectly (economic, cultural policies, etc.). In this perspective, francophony, together with anglophony, hispanophony and any other cultural-linguistic vector can contribute to the plurilingual and cultural European unity. In addition, francophony is a help to globalization, contributing to regional/continental and international economic development and is thus and through this leverage in the attention of Europeans and the international world.

Francophony is part of multiculturalism and promoter of European identity, francophones generally express their pro-Europeanism, culturally and politically confirming the "European idea". The French language also has the quality of being the official language of the EU, along with the other 23 official languages, as well as one of the 46 European languages recognized by the CoE. The European identity related to pluralism, to all the official languages recognized by the E.U. and the CoE has the merit of increasing tolerance towards European cultural and linguistic diversity and combating the extreme nationalism currently exacerbated in Europe. The European identity does not deny the other co-existing identity forms or components of its foundation. Precisely multiple identity serves to get rid of nationalistic limitations, to refuse monoculturalism, to combat discrimination and diversity. In this framework, francophony can contribute, together with anglophony, portuguesepony, germanophony, hispanophony, italophony, romanophony etc., to a unitary European pluralism, in which francophony is a part but also promotes diversity, including through its own content. This plurality is currently the basis of the legitimization of the new European identity, manifested especially through communication, dialogue and tolerance, equity, acceptance and respect for differences. The subjects of the research I carried out see francophony - bearer of general values such as freedom, respect, progress, modernism, as a component of the European cultural heritage that allows the consolidation of adherence to the values of Europeanism and to the European space of francophony. Some characteristics of the European identity are indicated by the respondents: multiculturalism, inclusion and social communion, integration of all identities, set of values originating from the francophon but also from other sections of cultural heritage, respect for human rights, peace and collaboration. The European identity can integrate nuanced values within the francophone framework: transparency, trust, altruism, communion, action, the acquisition of knowledge, gratitude, but also the entrepreneurial spirit and economic flair found prominently in anglophony, or the importance of dignity, the trans-generational transmission of knowledge, the val-

orization of precepts religious and family, outlined more intensively in hispanophony, italoophony and portugueseophony or in the Greek community.

In Romania - member of OIF, E.U. and CoE, the French language has represented throughout the centuries (especially in the Phanariot, Pasoptist, modernist, interwar eras, partly in communism, but also now, in contemporary democracy) an objective of education and culture, but also of the valorization of communication. Although it is present in state and private education, it still needs an increase in financial support and curriculum adaptation (including the French authorities must get involved in supporting francophony in our country, including with sufficient funding, because, as one of the subjects on who I interviewed, francophony in Romania is not eternal), which become feasible with the new education laws of 2023, promoters and supporters of diversity and equality. Although for the moment the share of those who learn the French language is higher than the number of those who use it in their current life, in various fields, the francophony is still not less supported in comparison with the support it receives on the territory of other countries with francophone countries in Europe. The relationship of the Romanians to the complex francophony increases or decreases depending on the attitude of the ordinary everyday person, depending on the adhesion and knowledge of the francophony but also the need and the pressure from the anglophony or other cultural-linguistic vectors, but it is currently gaining ground, even if for the time being more at the theoretical level, the equal consideration of cultural-linguistic identities and the relationship to the multiple forms of identity. Contemporary communicational, professional-economic and cultural francophony can increase the motivation for learning French and the knowledge of francophony, and Romanians begin to give up the elitist and strictly intellectualist optics of French, which can increase the intervention for the revitalization of francophony; it must not be forgotten that humanism is not specific only to francophony, but it can be promoted by any language and culture of the European continent and beyond.

European and national public policies must relate to diversity, including by knowing the motivation related to each linguistic-cultural component, which can allow the adjustment and adaptation of these policies, so that they genuinely support language learning and the knowledge and acquisition of cultures, including francophony. Romanian francophony needs marketing, and in this direction the Internet is of real use.

My research also confirms a plurilingual identity, going beyond the national identity as a framework and helping to shape and balance the European identity. Different forms of identity (national, regional, continental) are in a relationship of complementarity, having a different referential and not being in a relationship of superiority to each other, forming a fan of multiple individual and group identities.

The elements of the Francophone cultural heritage, considered important after the analysis of the data of my thesis, are: the French language, gastronomy, historical heritage, archaeological heritage, artistic heritage, cultural traditions, beliefs, knowledge, values and mentalities, all of which are still influential today. To them is added the actuality of the elements: economic, technological, communicational, secular, corporatist, syndical, entrepreneurial, diplomatic, literary and artistic. The subjects of the research consider francophony as a component of the European heritage that allows Europeanism. The Romanian authorities must take into account the current specifics of francophony, respectively the economic, mass communication, technological, corporate aspects and make efforts to revitalize the old ones - cultural, educational, diplomatic and political. In relation to the importance of the economic francophony, French investments in Romania multiply, partnerships are concluded with France for education, economy, administration and culture, economic relations are established and cultivated with the extended francophone countries, outsourced services of companies with francophone capital are inserted, after the principles of community and regional development, our country being a real pillar of support for francophony in Eastern Europe. The Romanian francophony has a perspective of humanism, which can influence the political sphere itself, through values such as equal treatment, freedom of expression, mutual aid, etc. The research I carried out also reveals that the Francophone culturalist perspective would be more suitable for the promotion of multiculturalism than the Anglophone globalist business perspective, but in practice such positions cannot be made in opposition, but each component must direct its actions multiple - cultural, economic, etc. for the purpose of unity and success together on the European continent.

Romania has three main francophone coordinates: linguistic (adding the motivational and educational element), economic-professional (adding the migratory element) and political-cultural (including diplomatic exchanges, European relations, as well as the political-administrative sphere), in a complex Europe that strives for democracy, freedom, equality, peace and tolerance. Romania is the only French-

speaking country in Eastern Europe and among the few in the world that did not receive the French-speaking side by force, colonialist and imperialist.

The Romanian francophony has the resources to get involved in the future to support multiculturalism in Romania and in Europe, especially considering that we live in an era touched by right-wing extremists, xenophobia, racism, political and armed conflict, which requires a corroborated cultural intervention, communicational, economic, political, technological, to support plurality.

In Romania, the concept of "francophony", maintained especially due to the continuation of the study of the French language in educational institutions, Romanian intellectuals, cultural exchanges and the diplomatic world, is specific not only to the past and the cultural heritage of our country, but it can also be a term of the Romanian present and future, especially because francophony has new chances to assert itself in the European multicultural context, with an emphasis on economics and finance, the common market, communication and information, digitization and innovation, professional training, outsourced services, international business etc., which in addition, it reinvigorates the old francophone heritage and diversifies the motivation to know the complex francophony. Moreover, in order to obtain and analyze rich information about francophony, I circumscribed my research to the framework set by the Romanian francophone community, that is, Romanians with francophone backgrounds but also French and francophones familiar with the Romanian area, and the evaluation of the data obtained following the application of my research methods allowed me to confirm the research hypotheses. As indicated by the research I carried out, the Romanian francophony has several guises: 1. the foreign language of communication and international circulation, included in the spectrum of plurilingualism; 2. culture with its own identity, transmitted and supported mainly by the French language; 3. the component of the political project of multiculturalism and plurilingualism supported by the EU, in an egalitarian format of all cultures, languages and confessions, which allows the updating of francophony and creates opportunities and motivations to adhere to it; 4. francophone economic and financial presence, commercial exchanges, supranational business, individual and corporate interest, extended communication and digitization; in all these contexts, the motivation for acquiring the French language becomes important. Romanian francophony has three basic dimensions in mind: the cultural-educational dimension, the economic and mobility dimension and the diplomacy and European and international sphere. At the same time, it can be highlighted through three significant levels, namely the cultural one - art,

culture, diplomacy, the professional one - work and migration and the linguistic-educational one (including the motivational aspect) - studies in the country but also in francophone countries. The political-administrative decision-makers must take into account these elements, in order to be able to promote the francophony and multicultural heritage; at the same time, it must take into account the general reporting of Romanians to the Romanian, European and international francophone community, as well as the actions carried out in support of francophony within European and international organizations. Paying attention to all these aspects, one can also support multiculturalism in the Romanian space, whose francophone vector cannot be disputed, it is highlighted through the language and culture of the Enlightenmentists, revolutionaries, modernists, progressives, following the thread of each historical period and gathering genuine elements of support for plurilingual and multicultural Europeanism, to which Romania must fully express its adherence now, in the 21st century of "unity in diversity".

The multiple identities and uses of each language (native, communication, secondary acquisition, teaching and/or learning, international circulation, etc.) find their defining note in the multicultural and plurilingual area, created through the participation of all European countries, but and through joint action to achieve the common goal, represented by the construction of a new united, progressive, harmonious, pluralistic and integrative Europe, in which Europeans can find themselves also from a political-citizen point of view. The European identity is displayed in a multidimensional light, but also from the perspective of a process of assimilation and maximum valorization of the various successive civilizational contributions from Europe, being a post-national and post-imperial form of identity that was not established in an imposed or pluralistic way conjunctural, but through free and conscious adherence to a common identity and political project, in which each participating component has chances of affirmation and evolution, a special political-historical context in which francophony has an enormous chance to highlight its unique potential.

The fact of inter-relating in this thesis the francophony, the motivation of learning the French language and the knowledge of the complex francophony, European identity, European citizenship, plurilingualism, public policies, the importance of the cultural and economic heritage of the francophony, the relations of the francophony with the European and international sphere, situating them all under the spectrum of multiculturalism and specifying the purpose of political construction and European integration, as well as solving the current societal crises, it allows both a rich scientific knowledge, as well as a sup-

port content for research in the field, but especially a valorization of multiculturalism and plurilingualism, implicitly of francophony and multiple identities. The topic of this thesis is relevant for the field of European studies and international relations, but also for that of political sciences, history, sociology, socio-linguistics and philology. This doctoral thesis relates to interdisciplinarity, in order to ensure a rich and valuable research material, which will contribute to the epistemological development and the academic environment, offering exciting research tracks for future scientific studies.

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