

The Role of Education in Strengthening Cultural Identity: in Central and Eastern Europe: Between Tradition and Modernity



- Author:

Curos Liudmila, PhD candidate, State University of Moldova; teacher of information technologies at “Alexei Mateevici” College, Chișinău; holder of the highest didactic degree

Central and Eastern Europe has, throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, been the stage of profound social and political transformations: the collapse of empires, the establishment of totalitarian regimes, the post-communist transition, and integration into European structures.

In this complex context, education has played a crucial role in shaping and redefining the cultural identity of the nations in the region.

Approaches analyzed

Identity redefinition in post-imperial, post-totalitarian, and EU-integrated societies.

Education as a symbolic and practical reconfigurator of national identity.

Identity Dimension of Education

- Curricular content transmits cultural narratives
- Language of instruction reflects cultural sovereignty
- Symbols and rituals reinforce identity in the educational space

- Moldova: Language debates reflect national identity tension

In the Republic of Moldova, linguistic education often lies at the heart of identity debates, oscillating between the promotion of the Romanian language as a national foundation and the respect for the rights of Russian-speaking and Gagauz communities.

- Hungary: Promotes Hungarian language and diasporic cohesion

In Hungary, education policy promotes national cohesion and the preservation of the Hungarian language, even within diaspora communities.

Modernization Challenges

- Globalization vs. local identity
- Digitalization and media literacy

- Mobility and curriculum standardization
- Competition between traditional and modern educational

Recommendations

- Multicentric education policy
- Continuous teacher training
- Curriculum balancing civic, historical, intercultural education
- Language inclusion and regional partnerships

Conclusions

- Education must balance European integration with national tradition.
- It should cultivate cultural resilience and local identity while embracing modern challenges.



Thank you very
much for your time

ludmilacuroz@gmail.com