Identity Issue in the Context of Civic and Inter-Cultural Education

Abstract

The author analyses links between civic and intercultural education with repercussions in the theory of identity and historical strategies of inter-group relations. She highlights the issue of European identity; its developing is in accordance with the theories of inclusive identity and cultural citizenship.

Key words: identity; inclusive identity; European identity; European citizenship; cultural citizenship; intercultural education; civic education.

Introduction

Contemporary debates on the issue of citizenship must include questions of culture and identity. One of the greatest successes of contemporary European culture is its high level of cultural diversity: no other part of the world has so many cultural communities. Building societies in which all members are able to fully participate on a non-discriminatory basis is the ultimate objective of integration, avoiding marginalisation and fragmentation. A critical question is how to put effective policies into practice to prevent marginalisation and fragmentation. The interconnectedness of citizenship (in the sense of political belonging) and culture (in the sense of belonging to a cultural group) is significant in the analyses presented in this article.

Citizenship education is an important feature of European economic and social development, reflected in many European Union publications. The 2000 Lisbon strategy and the work following Education and Training Systems in Europe (2002)