YOUNG PEOPLE AND EUROPEAN VALUES

Ioana Petre
Institut of Sociology "Dimitrie Gusti"

This study is a very general and synthetically view about values orientations of Romanian yong people. The whoh paper proves a Romanian youth attached to the most significant. European values such as democracy, greedam, solidarity, rust in other nations and tolerance toward ethnic minorities and towarce other minorities—racial, aexual, religions et. This approach is also about the way wich young people is relatece with the main ethical values. For example, concerning the responsability was indentified two categories of young: a. the young with a "social behavios", placing on th top of the list the needs'and expectations of others; b. the young displaying a "tradisionalist" or "romantic" behovior and who primarily appeal to a series of tradisional values such as honor, morality, integrityx, dignity.

Intoduction

This study has an main objective the construction of a socio-moral portrait of the young in Romania, containing the main characteristics which distinguish the Romanian youth from the rest of the population. In order to achieve this main objective the authors took into account two specific objectives:

a. The identification of the main socio-cultural sub-groups within the Romanian youth which display relatively separate value hierarchies within the large category of Romanian youth, who exhibit their own value systems which guide their attitudes and behavior.

b. The identification of the place of the Romanian youth within the contemporary European value system by estimating the socio-political and moral values which have lost some of their importance during the last few years, as well as the values which should be defended and restored today.

For the purpose of achieving these aims we have conducted a sociological investigation at national level, on a representative sample of approximately 2000 young from 21 counties from the following geo-cultural areas of the country: Moldova, Dobrogea, Muntenia, Oltenia, Banat, Crisana-Maramures, Transylvania and Bucharest. The conclusions of this paper were also based on the results of other researches having the same topic conducted by research institutes in Romania, France, Hungary and Poland.

As a broad remark we could state that the prevailing moral and civic values of the youth in nowadays Romania display the three fundamental axes of life: family, work and inter-personal relations, especially love and friendship.