

The report of the chairman at the first topic of the International Seminar „Europe for citizens...” (Warsaw, 9-12 february, 2009)

Within the first theme, Dr. Sante Maletta from Italy, Prof. Zbigniew Gluza from Poland and Dr. Violeta Barbu from Romania have presented their papers. The discussions have shown the diversity of points of view existing in the approaches to defining the terms of totalitarianism and totalitarian systems, from multiple perspectives: philosophical, historical and sociological, as well as political science. The teoretical value of these terms arise from the need to define the conceptual and methodological research and the teaching areas and pedagogical activities. There have been widely disscussed the concepts of totalitarianism, totalitarian systems, post-totalitarianism, memory, conflict memory, competition memory, moral consciousness, immanent values etc. The debates have revealed that there is no general consensus, in the way of perception, understanding and definition of these terms.

The papers and the disscutions that followed presented a series of conclusions, according to which these concepts are being under debate within the scientific and educational community, estimating that in the next phase, the dialogue between East and West, respectively between Eastern and Western Europe, is crucial to clarify these terms.

Another aspect detached from the discussions is that one of the inter-disciplinarity of these concepts, which explanation / elucidation involves their multidimensional treating, taking into account some knowledge and some value judgments in the field of philosophy, history, political science, cultural anthropology and education science.

It was found an imbalance of the memory, so that the memory of Shoah, and respectively of the Holocaust are more present in the European cultural heritage than the memory of communism and – respectively – of the Gulag. The size of this imbalance is strongly related to the way how these problems are managed at the national level, in each country. In order to make a common European treasury out of these concepts, a joint effort of scientific and educational communities from the former communist countries is needed. In this context, an important role is played by the arhivistic heritage of each European country, necessary for it to become a common good to serve European and universal civilization.

It is important that the causes of present imbalance to be understood, many of them revealed themselves during the discussions. An unchallenged fact, is that for the education of the young generation in the European spirit, the approach of bouth memoirs is being feld, putting together the common points, the resemblances bur also the differences of cultural, politic and historic order.

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