

Concept of society integration: basic ideas and challenges.

A practitioner's view

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Managing diversity in plural societies

- cultural diversity as the basic value
- homogeneity as a prerequisite for effective government
- need to reconcile and find optimal solution in given circumstances
- universal principles and standards but - universal practical solutions?

“Stability dilemma”

- suppression and assimilation of minorities?
- recognition and respect of minority identities and specific needs?
- *devil's advocate*: practical answers not easy
- risks of territorial autonomy
- external factors

Shared society = integration

- cultural assimilation?
- social cohesion?
- practices: somewhere in between

Council of Europe approach

- common values
 - democracy and human rights
 - not always clear and easy, example: family law
- mastering official language
 - tool of communication vs more comprehensive concept of a “cultural environment”
- non-discrimination and equal opportunities
 - effective participation

Multiculturalism

- “failure of multiculturalism”?
- concept borrowed from immigration states
- a sort of power-sharing
- risk: instead of accommodation of diversity, provokes construction of identity (not to be left outside of the system of distribution of resources), “ethnic entrepreneurship”
- ignores multiple identity

Securitization

- ambiguity
- more attention paid to minority claims
- security-based instead of value-based approach
- devaluation of standards, favours instrumental solutions
- departure from legal standards and litigation
- “bad behaviour is rewarded”?

Conclusions

- interpretation of minority rights as the right to equality and non-discrimination. Equality not through elimination of diversity but through different treatment to ensure full and effective equality
- proper combination of “idealistic” value-based approach with “pragmatic” security-based approach
- concrete forms of effective participation