

INTEGRATION OF EUROPE AS THE FIELD OF INTEREST OF JEAN MONNET PROJECT

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Abstract

Following the historical perspectives of European integration it is clear that rising global changes and challenges influence European society's development for evermore. And as one of the aspects of the development the phenomena of Integration appears under the basis of values. As the response to society's development and the process of Integration the idea of the Unique Europe rises in early ages of Roman Empire, continued in the Middle Ages and passed several historical stages of various forms of Integration till nowadays.

The paper analyses the theoretical approach on Integration as well as follows the main stages of European integration in the historical point of view highlighting main European values under which basis the Integration process lasts. The paper stresses the legal, political, economic and social aspects of Integration as the reflection of European values rising in parallel with the historical movement of European integration.

To strengthen the integration process the Europe Union implements a big variety of instruments. One of the instruments – Jean Monnet Action - was launched in 1990's by European Commission under the request of Universities. The most important feature of this instrument is that to this Action is directly oriented towards the European citizens and European integration studies as well as understanding through teaching, through reflection and debate, and through the far reaching influence of the activities of the European Centres of Excellence and the Jean Monnet professors.

The paper emphasises the expediency of the Action as it is focused towards the same social disciplines reflecting the legal, political, economic and social aspects of European Integration. With reference to this the big correlation stands. After 2001 Jean Monnet Action is open through all over the world. Lithuania attends this Action through the activity of universities.

The paper represents the genesis and types of the activities of Jean Monnet Action as well as the development of this Action in Lithuania. The specific attention was stressed on the case study of Jean Monnet Action in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe reflecting the political, legal, economic and social aspects of European Integration.

Keywords:

Integration, European integration, European values, Jean Monnet Project.

Introduction

The beginning of European integration goes from early ages of the history of the European continent. This process lasted and was closely related with the civilizations, its development, with great personalities and their ambitions as well as great ideas to make Europe as strong and unique. Not surprisingly that after the World War II famous persons of Europe renewed this idea with a new power and new vision. Jean Monnet, regarded by many as a chief architect of

Europe Unity, even until his last days, was firm in his conviction that the European nations had to unite in order to survive. "...there is no future for the people of Europe other than in union" (Mattera, 2002).

Scientific problem: Integration of Europe is a dynamic though expedient process based on European values and acting in political, legal, economic and social aspects. Analysing this process the demand appears to study the theoretical approach on European Integration. Do the historical movements of European integration bring new values and aims? Does the Jean

Monnet Project appear as the initiative implemented of the European Commission to strengthen the European integration as well as its understanding? Is the Project closely correlated instrument acting under the aspects same as European integration process?

Goal of the research - to analyse the Integration of Europe as the field of interest of *Jean Monnet Project highlighting the correlation between the process of Integration and the main goals of the Jean Monnet Action as strengthening instrument of European integration.*

Research objectives:

- to analyse the main aspects of European Integration;
- to study the role of political, legal, economic and social factors in the history of European integration;
- to analyse the trends of development of Jean Monnet Action and its correlation with European integration in the context of the global processes.
- to study the reasons of incorporation of Jean Monnet Project to Integrated Programme LLL 2007-2013.
- to study and identify the changes in the development of Jean Monnet Action in Lithuania and Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe.

Research methods:

- *Analysis* of scientific literature, documents and reports.
- *Case study analysis* - as a method for empirical research - analyzing the relevance the activity of Monnet Project in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe to the political, legal, economic and social aspects of European Integration.

Political, legal, economic and social factors in the history of European integration

There is a risk of seeing the European integration as an isolated process, exclusively centred in the period after World War II. The beginning of this process and the great transformation, that shaped a reality known as Europe, can be noticed even earlier.

The Roman Empire constituted the first great effort to integrate an important section of our continent and the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Middle Ages brought the idea of unification under the common banner of Christendom. The ideas of *eurocentrism* and superiority of the European civilization arose in that moment. Without the Renaissance and the Enlightenment can not be understood the ideas of tolerance, freedom, respect of human rights and democracy that that constitute the foundation of the

European construction. The historical evolution of the European continent prior to World War II and the recent integration process that has been realized in the European Union are also very important moments of the process of European integration.

There is a long list of towering historical personalities, who, in quite different ways, pursued an idea of Europe: Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleón, Metternich and others. The same thing could be said about intellectuals and philosophers. From Rousseau to Marx, from Kant to Leibniz, there were remarkable thinkers who proposed the idea of a European Community as a long-term desirable political objective.

Many scientists found European integration as very interesting as well as noteworthy object of scientific research. With reference to Thomas Diez and Antje Wiener (2003, 2004), who systemized the analyses of understanding of European integration, can be distinguished two ways of explanation of the integration process from the *theoretical point of view* bringing the definition.

The first definition stands on the interpretation of Ernst Haas (1958), one of the influential integration theorists on neofunctionalism. Once took the therefore demanding definition, which includes social process (the shifting of loyalties) and political process (negotiation and decision-making about the construction of new political institutions above the participating member states with a direct say in at least a part of the member states' affairs). Not all theorists include both aspects in their definition and that's why it is so important that Haas emphasized the *social element of integration* which appears as one of the most peculiar aspect of European integration model.

A less demanding definition preferred by intergovernmentalists, coming from a different angle within the spectrum of integration theory, focuses instead on political processes, although this can be stated as "*political integration*".

In both of the definitions above, *integration is first and foremost a process*: both neofunctionalists and intergovernmentalists are more concerned with the process of integration than with the political system that integration leads to. However, more lately various authors have focused specifically on the shape of what they call a new system of governance emerging in the EU. While they are more concerned with outcome than the process of integration (Marks, 1996a, 1996b).

However Ben Rosamond (1997) treats European integration and the emergence of the EU not only as responses of social and political aspects of integration but also of global transformation involving various

factors. To reference to this the growth of the EU reflects a considered reflex to particular sorts of policy dilemma and incentive structures occasioned by changing global conditions. The European integration is intimately connected to the types of challenge posed by the intensification of economic and social life associated with the global integration.

Resuming the thoughts above on the interpretation of the definition of integration can be stated that the dynamism of the process of European integration influences the interpretation as well as broadness of the definition. With reference to this the understanding the European integration can be achieved also through the retrospective analysis of European integration from the *historical point of view* highlight most important moments of this process via treaties:

- The Treaty of Paris (1951);
- The Treaties of Rome (1957);
- The Single European Act (1986) and the road towards
- the Treaty of the European Union (1992);
- The Treaty of Maastricht (1992);
- The Treaty of Amsterdam (1997);
- The Treaty of Nice (2001);
- The Treaty of Lisbon (2007);

Wiener (2002) the development of integration divides into three broad phases from the theoretical point of view:

- 1960s onwards – Explaining integration;
- 1980s onwards – Analysing Governance;
- 1990s onwards – Constructing the EU.

However following the integration process each of these phases can be characterized by main features reflecting to those days' reality and objectives (Thomas Diez and Antje Wiener 2004):

- The first phase represents the development of *political and economic integration* of Europe towards the prevention of future war;
- The second phase - economic, political and also *integration through law*;
- And third phase mostly highlights the implication of *social factors to integration process*.

According to the analysis these three main phases, based on official documents as well as Treaties, brought to European integration process particularly important changes under which the formation of new values appeared as well as aims and ways how to achieve it (Fig.1).

On the first phase of integration the *political and economic factors* of integration appears towards the prevention of future war under the basis of *peace as new value* and aim. Later in the development of integration the second phase has a feature of *political stagnate* though *legal factor of integration* appears

under the erection of values of democracy, tolerance and freedom. The third phase of integration brings especially important changes in European integration process and makes a big implication to European integration model with the *social factor* which goes with *solidarity, equality and diversity*.

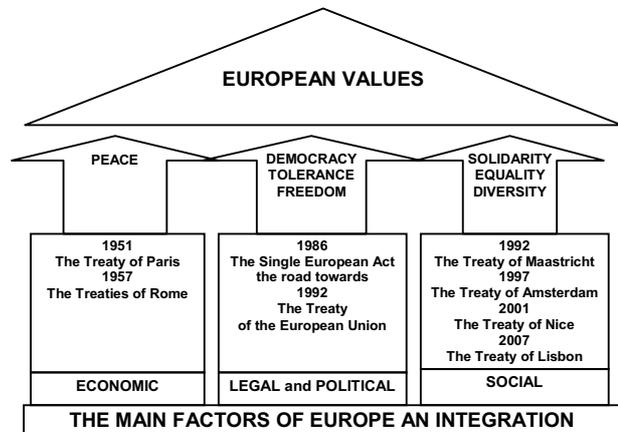


Figure 1. The pillars of European integration under the basis of European values and main factors of integration

Regarding to thoughts mentioned above on European integration from the theoretical as well as historical point of view can be stated that European integrations firstly is the process which lasts with several stages of development influenced of economic, political, legal and social factors under the basis of new values' erection.

Development of Jean Monnet Action as strengthening instrument of European integration

European Union as an organisation implements various instruments as well as initiatives to strengthen also to deepen the European integration process through various ways. One of the specific initiatives of European Commission is the Jean Monnet Project undertaken under the request of the universities, whose aim is to facilitate the introduction of European integration studies in universities.

The peculiarity of this Project is its *orientation towards the European citizen*. Also its specific aim is the *enhancement of knowledge on European issues* through understanding, teaching, through reflection and debate, and through the far reaching influence of the activities of the European Centres of Excellence and the Jean Monnet professors. The *project targets those social science disciplines* in which community developments are an increasingly important part of the subject studied, also *reflects the main factors of European integration* i.e.:

- European Community Law,
- European Economic Integration,

- European Political Integration,
- History of the European Construction Process.

The Jean Monnet Action was launched in the member states of the European Union in 1990. *The implementation of this initiative was forced of the strengthening of social activity and social affairs in EU and was closely connected with the third phase of European integration where social factor appeared as one of the main in the integration process.* The Project lasted few stages of enlargement and in 2001 was extended to all candidate countries applying for EU membership and to universities anywhere in the world.

In the new member states after the new EU enlargement in 2004 the Jean Monnet Project provided a response to the need for knowledge about European integration and to the call for assistance expressed by universities in these countries to boost their own academic resources. It aimed to prepare the new generation of European affairs specialists with a view to the accession of these countries to the European Union.

The Jean Monnet Project has following aims supporting and encouraging special activities (Fig. 2):

- stimulating academic excellence in the field of European integration studies through the *support for new teaching, research and debate activities at university level;*
- fostering academic reflection on current policy priorities in the field of European integration via *centralised high-level conferences and thematic groups* (bringing together Jean Monnet professors, policy-makers and civil society in Brussels) and *support for decentralised reflection activities all over the world.*
- *supporting major institutions active in the study of European integration.*

Important role in the guidelines of Jean Monnet activities play centralised high-level conferences and thematic groups. During these meetings Jean Monnet professors, policy-makers and civil society in Brussels discuss most actual questions of European Union in the global context. Following the chronological order of these global conferences can be noticed direct links of global as well as European Union actualities, (European integration process via Treaties), which later appears as main stresses in calls for applications for *Jean Monnet Project supporting activities:*

The first global conference was held almost in parallel of Jean Monnet Action implementation (Brussels 27-28 February 1992) and aimed to identify fields of common interest for cooperation such as a world wide *Who's Who* in European Integration Studies; a common newsletter or journal; scientific

symposia; joint research projects; an up-dated data base, 'EURISTOTE'; Chairs in European Integration Studies and networks of researchers, exchanges of scholars.

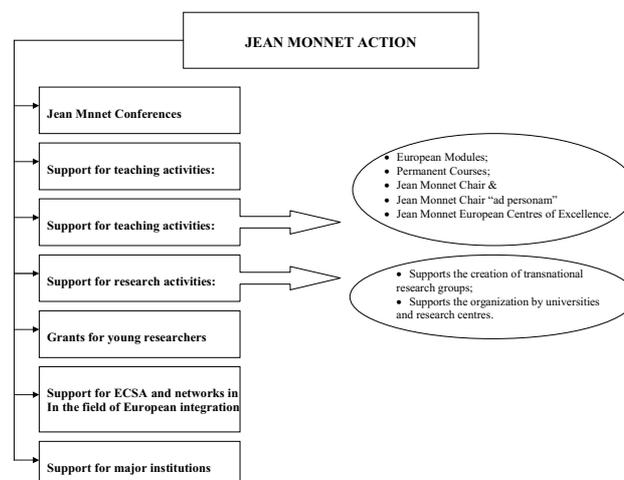


Figure 2. Types of activities of Jean Monnet Actions (K. Kriščiūnas, Ž. Paužaitė, 2006)

Second (Brussels 5 - 6 May 1994) "Federalism, subsidiarity and democracy in the European Union" and third "The European Union in a changing world" (19-20 September 1996) world conferences were linked to the aims of Treaty of European Union and the Treaty of Maastricht signed in the meantime.

Fourth world conference "The EURO, Economic, Institutional and International Aspects" (Brussels, 17-18 September 1998) was reflecting the main aspects of the Treaty of Amsterdam where were stressed freedom, security, justice, civil society, common foreign policy as well as the reform of the EU institutions.

Fifth world conference „Enlarging the European Union“ (Brussels, 14-15 December 2000) highlighted the institutional reform and legitimacy of the European Union, Economic and financial capacity to ensure the EU enlargement, perception, diversity and civil society of candidate countries. Sixth conference „Peace, security and stability – International dialogue and the role of the European Union“ (Brussels, 5-6 December 2002) reflected on issues of international dialogue and peace, of which stability and security formed an integral part. Both (fifth and sixth) conferences were linked to Amsterdam and Nice Treaties and its aims.

Seventh world conference "The European Union and Emerging World Orders: Perceptions and Strategies" (Brussels, 30 November - 1 December 2004) took place at an important time for the European Union. The EU, faced with numerous challenges on the international political scene, needed to develop and implement an effective common foreign policy. The EU's role and capacity to act in the face of new emerging world orders were at the heart of the

conference's discussions. The issues addressed at the conference were focused on global economic governance and human development, globalisation and the role of international law, as well as the EU as a model for a rule-based world order.

Eight world conference „Europe's challenges in a globalised world“ (Brussels, 23-24 November 2006) discussed the globalised world and the EU's model for economic prosperity and social justice, the integration of persons in an international context and the development of a peaceful world order. As such, the Global Jean Monnet Conference contributed to the shaping of an international response to globalisation, in areas like economic and social policy, migration and diversity, and international security highlighting the values such as solidarity and cohesion, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, universal access to education and healthcare, and sustainable development. The conference was very linked to Treaty of Lisbon signed in 2007 and known as Treaty of values.

Summarising the chronological analysis of the thematic of world conferences, based on European integration process and its phases, can be stated that *Jean Monnet conferences touches the most important issues of European Union in the global context*. Also it appears as non formal guidelines for Jean Monnet activities and influences its changes as well as brings new stresses and objectives.

Integration of Jean Monnet programme in new EU programme for LLL 2007-2013

Under the decision of the European Commission made in March 2004 which adopted a Communication “The new generation of Community Education and Training Programmes after 2006” (“the earlier Communication”), following up the February Communication on “policy challenges and budgetary means for the period 2007-2013” was indicated the Commission's intention to propose an integrated lifelong learning programme, incorporating the ensemble of existing internal education and training programmes where Jean Monnet Programme appears as one of the instruments.

The general objective of the above mentioned Integrated Programme rose from the main task of the Lisbon strategy. Integrated Programme *aims to contribute through lifelong learning to the development of the Community as an advanced knowledge society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, while ensuring good protection of the environment for future generations*. In particular, *Programme aims to foster interchange, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the Community so that they become a world quality reference*.

The new Lifelong Learning Programme enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. Integrated Programme incorporates four sectoral programmes: Comenius (on school education), Erasmus (higher education), Leonardo da Vinci (vocational training) and Grundtvig (adult education), one transversal programme, and the *Jean Monnet programme (focusing on European integration)*, hereinafter collectively referred to as ‘the Specific Programmes’ (fig. 3).

Integrated Programme			
Comenius School education	Erasmus Higher education & advanced training	Leonardo da Vinci Initial and continuing VET	Grundtvig Adult education
Transversal programme 4 key activities – Policy development; Language learning; ICT; Dissemination			
Jean Monnet Programme 3 key activities - Jean Monnet Action; European Institutions; European Associations			

Figure 3. The structure of Integrated Programme for LLL 2007-2013

The Jean Monnet Project, being an important part of Integrated Programme, today constitutes of a vast network of 1800 professors specialising in European integration studies. More than 250 000 young people benefit each year from Jean Monnet teaching activities. Almost 900 universities now offer Jean Monnet teaching programmes within their curricula, resulting in the setting up of over 2900 academic projects in European integration studies during the period 1990-2008. These include 124 Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence, which offer a dynamic framework for the promotion of the diverse activities of the Jean Monnet professors which go beyond the university boundaries, 6761 Jean Monnet Chairs and 1982 Permanent Courses and European Modules. Since 2007 the Jean Monnet Programme is a part of the new Life Long Learning Programme 2007-2013 and 138 projects from 38 countries have been funded in the first year.

Development trends of Jean Monnet Action in Lithuania

Just after the announcement of European Commission to launch the Jean Monnet Project 2001 for candidate countries Lithuania set up its first activity by the Jean Monnet Project. In 2002 ECSA network was launched in Lithuania at Vilnius University. During the year 2001-2008 there were involved 5 universities of Lithuania in the activity of Jean Monnet Action: Vytautas Magnus University,

Vilnius University, University of Romeris, Kaunas University of Technology and Lithuanian University of Agriculture. In reference to the data of Jean Monnet Action in Lithuania the biggest base of this activity is being established in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe (KTU EI).

During the year of 2002-2008 there were launched all teaching activities of Jean Monnet Action in KTU EI: *Jean Monnet Chair, Jean Monnet courses and modules which were mostly linked to legal, political or economic aspects of European Integration, while Jean Monnet European centre of excellence (JMECE)* launched in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe in 2003 with its activity appears as multidisciplinary action.

Jean Monnet European centre of excellence promoted the partnership of universities, students, teachers, academic and non-academic community in the field of European Integration studies. The centre was acting as a connective instrument involving the experts of European integration affairs in academic and not academic level as well as in local, regional and international level and spreading the information and knowledge not only within the university but also for all civil society about the main and topical questions in European studies engaging and inviting people in flexible, interesting and mutual convenient way.

JMECE was acting widely within the University arranging academic and practical conferences, arranging meetings with high level experts, great officers of the state as well as diplomats, holding continues scientific seminars, celebrating the important days of the EU – involving to this activity teachers, researchers and students of Kaunas universities. JMECE was a partner of international research “Network on Enlargement and the Northern Dimension of EU” attending and organizing international conferences and meetings.

It is interesting as well as important to highlight that during the period of 2003 and 2008 the activities of JMECE were organized including all the main factors of European integration mentioned in the chapter above. The flexibility of activities was adjusted to the relevant as well as ad hoc topics of European integration in economic, political, legal and social aspects. As the example of the multidisciplinary activity were continues academic seminar analysing the important Lithuanian community questions in the field of European integration before the accession and after, studying the cultural, political and economical future of the enlarged EU as well as analysing the perspectives and experiences of the Lithuania membership in EU. Videoconferences mostly reflected not only on Lithuanian relevant questions in

the aspect of the EU but also and important question of the European integration in the global context.

Jean Monnet Action in KTU Institute of Europe through the activity of JMECE made the *learning opportunities available to various groups of interest. Participants attending these activities were able to find each individual learning pathway, suitable to their needs and interests at all stages of their lives in the field European integration.*

Conclusions

- With reference to the theoretic analysis the European integration firstly is a process (Marks, 1996a, 1996b), the process involving political, economic, legal and social factors acting under the basis of the erection of new values.
- One of the instruments to strengthen as well as deepen the process of European integration and its understanding is European Commission initiative – Jean Monnet Action has been launched in 1990.
- Jean Monnet Action is exclusive as it is directly addressed to European citizens and has the specific aim to facilitate the introduction of European integration studies in social science disciplines: Community law, European Economic integration, political and social studies as well as the history of European construction.
- Jean Monnet Action passed several stages of development widening its spectrum of activities. Recently Jean Monnet Action represents the support for seven types of activities: Jean Monnet conferences; grants for young researchers, support for teaching and research activities, national associations and networks of lectures as well as major institutions.
- World Jean Monnet conferences play an important role forming non official guidelines for the Jean Monnet activities and its thematic changes under the organisation of actual European integration discussion in the global context.
- With reference to the Lisbon strategic goal European Council identifies coherent strategies and practical measures with a view to fostering life long learning for all. According to this Integrated Programme for life long learning 2007-2013 were launched and there Jean Monnet Project appeared as one of the incorporated instruments.
- Since 2001 when Lithuania set up its first activity by the Jean Monnet Project till now five universities of Lithuania are involved in Jean Monnet Action renewing themes and applying for new projects

constantly.

- The effective platform of the Jean Monnet activity in Lithuania was established in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe. During the year of 2002-2008 there were launched all existing teaching activities of Jean Monnet Action.
- Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence (JMECE), launched in 2003 at Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe. It promotes the partnership of universities, students, teachers, academic and non-academic community in the field of European Integration studies implementing the wide and versatile activity.
- Jean Monnet Action at Kaunas University of Technology in its activities involve political, economic, legal and social aspects reflecting to the most actual European integration topics not only in local but also in global context.

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