The national psychological/intelligence profile of Romanians: An in depth analysis of the regional national intelligence profile of Romanians

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Abstract

The national psychological profile of a country/culture has important practical implication in today’s globalized world and psychological characteristics of a country/culture might be used as a basis for effective public policy designed to reduce social inequalities/inequities. Recent developments in the field (e.g., Rentfrow et al., 2013; Rentfrow, Jokela, & Lamb, 2015) have extended this approach from national level analysis to regional analysis, in order to understand the psychological profile of different geographical regions within a country. For Romania, a national psychological profile (David, 2015a) and a regional one (David, Iliescu, Matu, & Balazsi R., 2015) for personality have been recently elaborated. However, the relationship between geographic areas in Romania and cognitive abilities, such as intelligence, has not been investigated. The present article examined the differences in intelligence levels across eight broad geographical regions of Romania. The total sample (N = 2755) was a national representative one, with ages between 5 and 89 years. We compared intelligence scores across the eight regions in a multifactorial analysis of variance while controlling for the effects of demographic variables. Results show that there are no major differences

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in intelligence between the eight geographical areas. Thus, intelligence has a quite homogenous distribution across Romania. Education and age had the highest impact on intelligence scores. Implications for educational policies are discussed to counter social inequalities/inequities.

Keywords
national psychological profile, intelligence, regional analysis, Romania

Introduction

In today’s globalized world, countries/cultures interact more and more often one with another, and thus knowledge coming from cross-cultural psychology is important for facilitating human communication/cooperation and overcoming barriers in such interactions. Indeed, in the modern world, the knowledge on the psychological profile of a country/culture is fundamental in order to understand the behavior of its citizens in relation to each other, but also with individual from other countries/cultures. Moreover, this knowledge is important for understanding the country’s social and cultural environments as well as its institutions (Hofstede, Hofstede, & Minkov, 2010; Peabody, 1985/2011).

Following the logic of cross-cultural psychology comparisons (e.g., Bond, 1986, 2000; Peabody, 1985/2011; Terracciano et al., 2005), psychological attributes of a population of a country/culture can be assessed and compared with rigorous psychological instruments. These psychological attributes could be used then to build a psychological profile of a nation (national profile/psychology of a nation). Indeed, Peabody (1985/2011) presented such profiles for France, Germany, Italy, Russia, US, and UK, Bond (1986, 2000) for China, and David (2015a) for Romania. More specific, as relating to global national personality profile, Terracciano and collaborators (2005), in a seminal article published in Science, established the national global personality profile (i.e., national character) for 49 cultures (47 countries), showing that there is a discrepancy between the actual national character of a country (i.e., how the citizens of a country really are) and the perceived national character (i.e., how the citizens of a country believe they are). McCrae and Terracciano (2005) also showed in a cross-cultural investigation that personality traits from the Big Five model (Costa & McCrae, 1992) are related to various cultural and social indicators, such as values from Schwartz's model (1994) and cul-