



ARE WE REALLY EUROPEANS? EUROPEAN IDENTITY IN SERBIA

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RESEARCH QUESTION

The birth of the European Union in the mid 20th century marked the birth of the new social identity which was shared by many, if not all the Europeans, both in the EU, and outside of it-the **European identity**. The main questions raised in this aspect dealt with the possible correlates of the European identity and the relations between European and national identity in different countries. Although most of the researchers dealing with this social identity were sociologists and historians, in the last decade or so, psychologist start to claim there rightful place.

The main question we tried to answer is whether there is a sense of belonging to the Europe in the country which is not the part of the EU, and will not be there for years to come.

RESEARCH SAMPLE

The sample consisted of 451 ethnic Serbs and Hungarians from Serbia, out of whom 47% women and 53% men, different age (Mdn=26) and educational levels (51% with primary or secondary school and 49% with University degree or higher).



RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

- ✓STEIN scale (Attitudes toward European integration, Francesko, Majstorovic, Kodzopeljic, 2002;alpha=.88),
- ✓collective self-esteem scale (Luhtanen and Crocker; alpha=.77)
- ✓SDO scale (Sidanius, Pratto, Stallworth, Malle; .88)
- ✓European identity scale (Cinnirela; alpha=.84)
- ✓National identity scale (Cinnirela; aplha=.84)

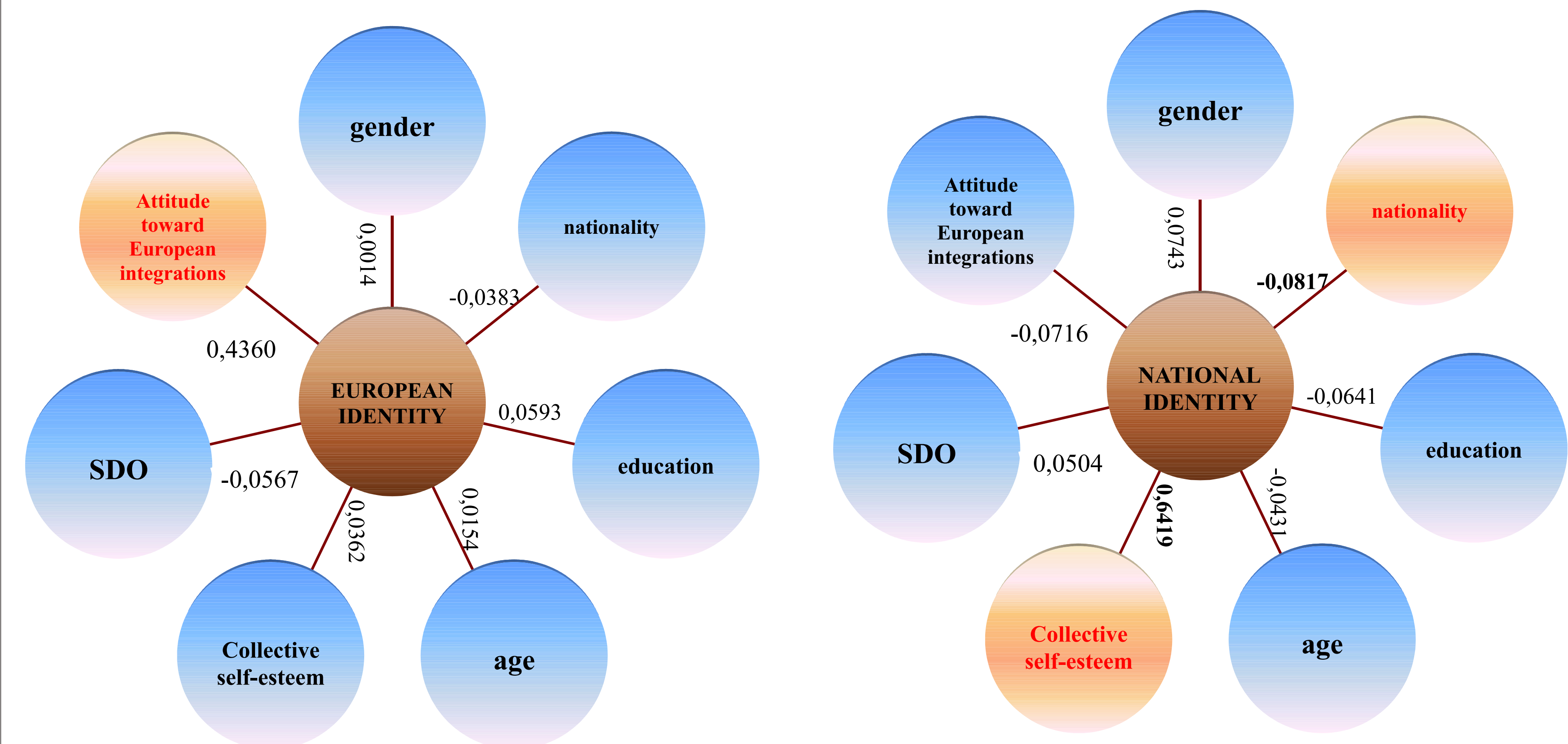


RESULTS

The results of the regression analysis show that only attitudes toward European integration are a valid predictor of the levels of European identity (more positive attitudes toward European integration could predict higher European identity). Nationality, age, gender, collective self-esteem, and social dominance orientation are not significant determinants of the European identity.

| | R | R ² | F | P |
|-------------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|
| European identity | 0.453 | 0.205 | 13.79 | < .01 |
| National identity | 0.668 | 0.445 | 43.42 | < .01 |

Also, we conducted the regression analysis for the national identity as a dependent variable. Again, age, education, gender and SDO proved not to be significant, but this time nationality (Serbs had higher national identity than the Hungarians) and collective self-esteem (higher self-esteem predicted higher national identity) were significant predictors of national identity.



CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ **European and national identity are independent social identities (r=004, p> .05)**
- ✓ **Age, gender, nationality, social dominance orientation and collective self-esteem are not significant correlates of the European identity**
- ✓ **POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS ARE significant correlates of the European identity**
- ✓ **Age, gender, social dominance orientation and attitudes toward European integrations are not significant correlates of the national identity**
- ✓ **HIGHER COLLECTIVE SELF-ESTEEM AND NATIONALITY ARE significant correlates of the national identity**