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**FACTORS AND PROCESSES OF EUROPEAN IDENTITY  
FORMATION**

Bachelor's Thesis

Programme International Relations

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## **ABSTRACT**

The thesis demonstrate that the Social identity evolve through socio-economic conditions with constructivist theory the social identity is presented in constant evolution through social interaction where the meaning of interaction is given by the collective interest based on the socio – economic innovations. In order to demonstrate European identity formation, the paper investigate how the social identity emerge, presenting the Netherlands as case study chronologically analyzing the national identity formation and consequently the European identity formation. The industrial revolution evolved socio - economic conditions and enabled collective interests that expanded national shared knowledge where the meaning of interaction was positive between members of a homogeneous community framing the Dutch national identity. While Kantian Cultural system gives positive meaning of interaction in transnational relations intensifying the social interactions inside networks of people with collective interests. The Single Market and the Digital Revolution are socio-economic innovations which expand the shared knowledge toward European identity.

**Key words:** *socio-economic condition, social interaction, meaning of interaction, shared knowledge, collective interest*

# INTRODUCTION

The identity has always been a central pillar of the state the reason why in the progression of European integration social identity is the fundamental key that need attention as it creates solid basis for legitimate political integration. The purpose of the thesis is to answer the following questions: Are there similarities between National and European identity formation? What factors and processes affect the formation of social identity? How changes in the socio-economic conditions affect the change in the meaning of social interaction between individuals? **The hypothesis of the paper is as follows: The innovations in the socio-economic conditions affect the formation of social identity.** Through socio-economic innovations expand economic networks that affect the meaning of interaction between individuals who engaged in collective economic activity framing collective interests, further the level of socio-economic innovation affects the degree of interaction between individuals expanding shared knowledge on which the identity is based. The thesis adopts Constructivist theory guidelines as it allows to define identity as an object in constant evolution through social interaction while the aim of the thesis is to research the parallels between National and European identity formation highlighting the role of socio-economic evolutions that affect the identity formation. The Netherlands should testify how the level of socio-economic innovation affect the formation of social identity. The choice of the Netherlands as case study had been influenced by the fact that the socio-economic innovations have been strategic in framing National and European identity in the Netherlands. The paper reflect on how the level of socio-economic innovation in the seventeenth century characterized the Dutch Golden Age represented by Industrial Revolution favored the expansion of networks that united the seven provinces of the Netherlands intensifying connectivity and creating collective interests due to similar specialized socio-economic activities expanding shared knowledge through innovative patterns of communication as print industry for instance. Consequently, the paper focus on how today in the Netherlands the innovated level of socio-economic conditions intensifies and expand networks where EU citizens enhance in positive social interaction based on collective interests. The Digital Revolution is changing the organization of economy intensifying connectivity and incrementing collective interests of EU citizens facilitating the formation of European identity.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The thesis has been based on qualitative research methods which help to examine how social interaction and collective interest frame social identity at the national level and at the European level. The validity of thesis research is supported by texts analysis and literature review

Process tracing method has been applied to highlight the causal mechanism of social identity formation applying the case study as evidence of underlying causal mechanism. Process tracing method is supported by the Modelling of social interaction method that is applied on the case study to detect the factors and processes of collective identity building based on Dutch national building, testifying the causal effect within which social interactions structure models that shape the formation of social identity.

The thesis uses the case study method, in the first part the paper address identity formation focusing on socio-economic factors and processes which favored national identity formation testified consequently by the case study on the Netherlands highlighting the dynamics of the Dutch Golden Age in the seventeenth century based on socio-economic innovations which favored the formation of Dutch national identity. In the second part are presented socio-economic factors and processes of European identity formation giving wider scientific and theoretical demonstrations supported by the Netherlands as case study in contemporary age, demonstrating how European identity is emerging through socio-economic dynamics.

# 1. THE FOUNDATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

The foundation of national identity in the seventeenth century has been affected by the process of socio-economic innovation. The vernacular languages flourish with the print industry that direct the positive meaning of social interaction inside linguistically homogeneous communities. (Oakes 2001, 21). Print industry has been the core factor in Europe when it comes to consider the expansion of the national shared knowledge containing cultural characteristics of the national society. Printed materials disclosed collective characteristics to large amount of ethnically homogeneous individuals facilitating the intensification of social interaction and communication. (Knights, Mcshame 2009, 186-187). In the process of modernization shared knowledge gained importance in structuring the national cultural interactions between individuals that started to engaged in collective actions with other members of the national community.

Industrial revolution organized the socio-economic activities framing collective interest strengthening the national identity. The innovative socio-economic specialized occupations were the motivational force for engaging in constructive social relations with other members of the community advancing new standards of education and innovative quality of life. Technological innovations required specialized and mobile skilled work force to organize in the industrial society. The socio-economic inclusion in the industrial society was based strictly on national ideology therefore ethnicity key element of national identity gained political prestige and influenced the dynamics of socio-economic organization. Ethnic valorization through socio-economic inclusion impacted the shared knowledge of national community inclining toward social imitation of the dominant ethnic group.

Dutch national identity was favored by the socio-economic innovations through specialized industries in the blue-economy based on trade and commerce incrementing mobility, communication and social interaction among the members of the seven provinces. Dutch industrial technological innovation transformed the Netherlands in economic capitalist power. (Slomp 2011, 278) The socio-economic opportunities presented to the Dutch shared knowledge collective interests based on similar values. The Dutch society adopted significantly print culture expanding national shared knowledge based on collective values, ideals and interests directing the positive meaning of social interaction. Dutch culture was promoted by the print industry with the

publication of diverse pamphlets and newspapers that used to transmit the collective socio-economic interests to the Dutch society.

Print capitalism has been influential factor in creating and expanding print culture in the Netherlands, due to prosperous industrial growth enabling the enlargement of the upper-middle class through the socio-economic inclusion.(Eisenstein 1988, 21) At the foundation of nationalism only the upper-middle class had the ability and financial opportunity to get in touch with the national culture through the acquisition of printed material and the inclusion in the socio-economic industrial style life. The print culture was interconnected to the industrial life expanding cohesive shared knowledge and intensifying collective interests among the Dutch seven provinces.

European identity according to this paper is the collective interest in relation to values, ideas and actions in respect to social and economic interests that arise from social interaction between EU citizens. The second part is dedicated to the European identity formation and initiate with the role of cultural system highlighting the effect of cultural system on shared knowledge through which individuals socialize. The prospective individuals adopt in the process of interaction depend on the cultural system which is defined by the state necessities. Depending on the type of shared knowledge the process of socialization can have negative or positive meaning of interaction toward the external members of a community , when the meaning of interaction is positive it creates a connecting cultural frequency where socialization have the potentiality to evolve collective socio-economic interest inclining toward cooperative behavior and formation of new identity.

The cultural systems mentioned in this paper refer to the three Cultures of Anarchy defined by the political scientist Alexander Wendt. The Cultures of Anarchy defined in this paper as ‘‘Cultural System’’ explain the type of relations between diverse parties, nations or factions. In the Hobbesian culture the type of relation is based on enmity between nations and the consequence is war and violence with no opportunity for civilizing process because of the mentality ‘‘ I must kill or I will be killed’’ that arise due to Hobbesian culture. In the Lockean culture the type of relation is rivalry where the States adhere to the basic norms of conduct in the international relations giving value to sovereignty rights for instance in which the process of civilization initiate between diverse national societies. While in the Kantian cultural system the type of relation is characterized by friendship in which States perceive each other as friends and cooperate between each other leading the civilizing process to collective identity formation. (Lacassagne, 2012 )

Transnational relations evolve through time in History and are characterized by the Hobbesian, Lockean and Kantian cultural systems. (Behraves, 2011 ) Kantian cultural system is vital for the



type of civilized shared knowledge that characterize the meaning of socialization and open the opportunity for collective socio-economic interest between individuals. The shared knowledge that expanded through the Kantian cultural system with third degree of internalization of norms and values expand genuine European identity because at the third degree of internalization of norms individuals share ideas and principles with strong devotion (Fietta 2002, 3) and have perception of norms and regulations as legitimate. The formation of collective European identity is based on collective values, ideas and interests enhanced by transnational socio-economic cooperation among EU members.

Karl Deutsch realized that the socio-economic evolution through technological innovations of infrastructures affect the creation of communities (Deutsch 1961, 1-2). The evolution of socio-economic infrastructures intensifies connectivity among EU citizens and the digital revolution contribute to the creation of European communities motivated by collective interests where socialization process is characterized by the Kantian cultural system combined with the third degree of internalization of norms expand genuine European integration. While Max Weber theorized that the expansion of capitalism intensify interaction based on socio-economic interests between European nations (Weber 1922, 353-354). EU collective regulations inside the Single Market are motivated by transnational socio-economic activities upgraded through scientific-technical innovations. (Pelkmans, Renda 2014, 14-16). Transnational communication motivated by socio-economic innovation shapes the positive meaning of interaction between ethnically diverse individuals, inclining toward equality in socio-economic inclusion. European Union favor interconnection among individuals with similar talents and capacities and specialized occupations making the European Labor Market more effective through initiatives such as ESCO (European Commission 2013, 4) incrementing positive meaning of interaction through collective interests. Positive socialization valorizes cultural diversity and mature tolerance for diversity incrementing the cultural capital inside socio-economic networks where intensification of interaction leads to constructive relations. The intensification of legislations that regulate EU is the result of positive meaning of interaction based on collective socio-economic interests that frame European identity

Economic interdependence inside European union reflect high level of economic interaction inside the single Market motivated by commercial interest stimulating cooperation inside socio-economic sectors of collective interests, (Moravcsik 1993, 488). The economic interdependence is facilitated by homogeneity in values and ideology, *de facto* all member states adhere to democratic and capitalist values mirrored in EU citizens style life, values and willingness to be part of a society with qualitative life standards. Kantian cultural system enables members of EU

to evolve collective interests framing collective identity' through the integration inside the Single Market motivated by positive economic results. For instance, the manufacturing sector presented opportunity of economic growth for many EU member states through intra- European trade inside the Single Market. While major opportunities for growth are presented for upper-middle class who can integrate in the socio-economic fields developed inside the Single Market. High level of interdependence affects the social prospective inside connected socio-economic networks at the European level framing European identity.

The socio – economic connectivity and expansion of European middle-class in the dynamics of integration is crucial in expanding European shared knowledge framing European identity as the support of values and ideals is motivated by collective socio-economic interests. The upper-middle class is more inclined to sustain European integration due to socio-economic inclusion inside the Single-Market. Expansion of European shared knowledge is also facilitated by the organizations that unite people with different nationalities yet with similar specialized occupations to innovate the state of knowledge of socio-economic fields of collective interests, additionally is strategic to promote social rights at the European level to stimulate the intensification of EU citizens mobility.

Considering the evolution of cultural system through time is possible to reflect on Spanish - Dutch relations to notice the improvement of relations based on state necessity and socio-economic innovation. During the Eighty Years War the Netherlands adopted Hobbesian cultural system with the type of relation based on enmity because of the necessity to fight for independence from Spanish occupation. While the seventeenth century initiated new constructive opportunities for Spanish - Dutch relations presented by commercial growth and socio-economic innovations that developed networks based on Kantian cultural system.

Today Dutch economy is very dependent on exporting inside the Single Market which revenue is strategic for domestic growth, the interdependence is facilitated by homogeneous values and ideals with other members of the Union characterized by liberal and democratic views. Cultural diversity is one of the characteristics of European Union and is mirrored in Amsterdam which can be considered the architype European city. Amsterdam socio-economic organization enable development of multicultural European networks with high cultural capital and liberal ideology creating a welcoming environment for EU citizens who experience translation mobility for socio-economic purposes. European identity is emerging in the Dutch society where socialization has positive meaning toward EU citizens that incline toward cooperation inside European Union.

The European Union is implementing 'Europe 2020 strategy' with the aim of creating the environment for the Digital Single Market (European Commission, 2019). Digital revolution is the new industrial revolution that innovates the socio-economic organization of the state. The potentiality of the Single Digital Market will create opportunity for higher standards of interconnectivity among EU citizens due to the development of smart industries. Further new specialized occupations will create job opportunities and facilitate the expansion of European middle class. The Netherlands is one of the leading European member states in respect to Digital innovation because of the digitalization of infrastructures is already contributing significantly to economic growth and organization of society. The digitalization of economy requires organizing the education standards to obtain qualified skilled work force to meet the specialized occupations needed by economic innovation. Due to Kantian cultural frequency at the EU level education will lead to expansion of positive shared knowledge toward European identity based on collective socio-economic interests that will develop from digitalized hubs like the Netherlands intensifying connectivity and social interaction among EU citizens evolving European identity.

### **1.1. Meaning of interaction through print industry**

Language is key element in the foundation of national identity based on ethnicity (Gellner 1983, 1-2) that establish communication standards rising the intersubjective understanding in the social processes. National language expanded through print industry which is the key technological socio-economic innovation that directs the meaning of social interaction creating vision and perception of the Self and the Other in a positive sense. The public reading directed individuals toward political objectives creating a sense of belonging to the nation through the vernacular language, from which originate the formation of national languages. Defining the shared knowledge and interests of people who could comprehend and so had inherited those ethnic elements that composed their national identity.

The socio-economic innovations reflected by the emergence of capitalism together with the technological revolution of communication as the print industry expanded the use of vernacular languages among the European populations stimulating the formation of national identity, in the seventeenth century 22 European languages assumed their modern style of expression.

(Anderson 1983, 42-45). The national identity was framed through the key element as the print-language evolving social fields where communication in vernacular language was a shared practice. In this manner European languages played a crucial role in framing the diverse national identities.

Print industry played a crucial role in expanding national language that functioned as key link of connectiveness among a community, framing shared knowledge giving the meaning to values and interests constructing social identity among people who could speak the same language. The perception of belonging through linguistic channel facilitated intersubjective understanding that under the technological innovation and the stimulation of capitalism evolved the national identity at the state level.

## **1.2. Shared knowledge through print industry**

In the highly mobile industrial society communication and interaction between diverse individuals belonging to the same shared knowledge becomes the essence of social life motivated by collective socio-economic interests (Gellner 1983, 57-63). The identity characterized by the shared knowledge have the aim in creating sense of belonging for large portion of population, using cultural values as social solvent for creating intersubjective understanding and facilitate communication in a society where interdependence is an emerging factor of the modern state. The shared knowledge and so the social architecture to which individuals belong fortify the identity formation giving the motivational force to engage in positive social interaction incorporating the Other to the Self.

The identity requires a form of cultural interaction in which common values and interests are expressed to promote legitimate and positive sense of belonging. The socio-economic evolution of the print capitalism was crucial factor in creating shared knowledge among the national population. The reading practices raised the awareness of homogeneous society with similar identity and created shared knowledge facilitating the process of social interaction between individuals. The reading process created a form of social attention toward shared knowledge in which collective interests were presented in the cultural form.

Print capitalism initially focused the attention of print industry on the form of Latin language, however after 1640 Latin language lose popularity at the expense of dialects. The plurality of dialects in use by masses presented the opportunity for print industry to initiate cheap publications in vernacular languages (Anderson 1983, 38-39). Hegel thought that the use of modern journals in everyday life of man worked as kind of substitute for morning prayers (Rockmore 1993, 44). At the mid-seventeenth century the “awakening” of vernacular languages influenced the rise of national identity stimulated by the journal reading practices performed by millions of people

simultaneously, conscious of each other existence. Print capitalism was essential socio-economic factor that affected the formation of diverse national groups by virtue of ideas and values presented in books and pamphlets. Printing was one of the core activities of the first stage of Industrial Revolution where books, newspaper novels and other reading materials were the first modern industrial commodity at the disposition of the masses.

### **1.3. The role of Industrial revolution in socio-economic organization**

The national consciousness is the result of the passage from agrarian to industrial society (Recchi 2015, 126) where shared interests conduced to collective action in the working environments. National collective identity is the result of social interaction inside the socio-economic fields where individual's nearness to each other facilitate identity formation through positive interaction.

According to the constructivist theory identity is shaped through the process of social interaction based on collective interests (Jackson, Sørensen 2013, 217). The process of identity formation is characterized by individuals who share knowledge and ideas in respect to collective interests. The Industrial Revolution offered socio-economic occupations toward collective interests, therefore was the motivational force to engage in positive constructive socialization between members of the national community.

Modernization and technological advancement facilitated the enlargement of the middle-class and increased the qualitative standards of economy and education. The social status permitted to the new industrial social networks to integrate inside the political organization of the state and influenced the public opinion and challenged the aristocratic socio-economic structure. Industrialization and modernization processes affected the creation of working class and the basic social rights through the structural change of the socio-economic organization. (Gerhards, Lengfeld 2015, 86). Modernization created new levels of education and the social life improved to some extent establishing the foundation for democratic evolution at the national state.

Industrial Revolution required qualitative educational standard for skilled workers able to integrate inside the chains of industrial economy. The education produced shared knowledge creating intersubjective understanding based on similar beliefs and expectations, favoring cooperative behavior among society members with similar socio-economic interests. (Wendt 1999, 160-163). The economy of industrial society relay on the flexible mobility and communication between the members of national community and by the process of socialization shared knowledge compact

society based on homogeneous values and beliefs. The necessity to elaborate homogeneous educative programs is strategically important to meet the socio-economic functionality of the national state (Gellner 1983, 140).

Shared knowledge communication and expansion is crucial in the formation of citizens identity that hold similar values and have similar interests. Technological advancement in economic growth require specialized flexible division of labor and efficient communication between members of the national community. The state for the first time in the history take the monopoly over the education establishing the nationalism as ideology to meet the socio-economic necessities (Gellner 1983, 33-34).

#### **1.4. National identity and socio-economic inclusion**

At the foundation of nationalism, the aim of ideology used to be the homogeneous organization of the industrial society through the use of national language. The necessity for uniformity is mirrored in the Nationalism to meet the socio-economic functionality of the state through culturally homogeneous population. Nationalism emerge as efficient social structure with the foundation on intensely internalized educative system based on ethnicity and language enhanced and promoted by the state institutions valorizing the processes of culture existing inside the linguistic community (Gellner 1983, 40-48).

Ethnicity key element of national identity emerge with new political value in the shared knowledge of the national community incorporating status of prestige that enable individuals to take positions of socio-economic power and well – being in the industrial age promoted by the social architecture of the national state (Gellner 1983, 94-96). Ethnic characteristic of the political rulers that engage in the socio-economic organizations give the meaning of socialization based on ethnical and linguistic inclusion to which themselves belong. It means that those individuals who possess ethnic characteristic of the political rulers have a natural advantage in the social classes and engagement in more qualitative economic occupations, while the minority groups who belong to diverse ethnic groups suffer discrimination. The shared knowledge of a collective national community in which most of the population has been educated is the most important individual investment, the national identity becomes the key in proposing opportunities for socio-economic security.

Ethnic valorization through socio-economic inclusion influence socialization and interaction giving the meaning of interaction between the internal and external members of a community. Following the constructivist approach the meaning inside a homogeneous community is positive and creates constructive relations through collective interests strengthening the identity. While the meaning of interaction is negative with individuals who belong to diverse ethnic communities with no possibility of transnational identity formation. It creates cooperation at the national level and antagonism at the international level, creating diffidence between diverse national communities.

The process of interaction is a fundamental social process through which the interests and identity are framed. Through socialization are communicated characteristics of behavior of individuals regulated by two factors, imitation and social learning. Identity and interests are framed by imitation when individuals have the vision of who is “successful” by giving attention on material success and status success. (Wendt 1999, 325). The social imitation is a cultural pattern of every generation, at the foundation of nationalism imitation was directed toward the socio-economic inclusion inside the growing industrial community considered successful imitation.

## **2. CASE STUDY – FORMATION OF DUTCH NATIONALISM**

### **2.1. Dutch nationalism formation and role of Industrial revolution**

Through the process of social interaction collective identities and interest take form inside national society. The positive shared understanding enabled cooperation fortifying the social interaction through which the national social architecture evolved in the seventeenth century.

The social architecture embodies three fundamental elements that characterize the basic foundations of social system and are considered as the causal powers. These three elements are the material conditions, interests and ideas (Wendt 1999, 139). The social identity following the constructivist theory is structured through the interconnection between the material conditions that enable collective action toward collective interests. Progression of collective interests give positive constructive meaning to interaction strengthened by collective values and norms, forming social identity.

Nationalism in the seventeenth century was stimulated by the socio-economic innovations represented by the growing print culture and Industrial Revolution (Dittmar 2009, 6-7) affecting the evolution of collective Dutch identity. Citing Johan de Witt “Do not the present seven United Provinces have the same single interest in their own preservation? A same single fear of all foreign powers? Are they not bound to each other by mutual alliances and marriages among both regents and inhabitants, by common bodies, companies and partnership in trade and other interests, by intercourse, possession and property in each other’s land, common customs and otherwise, are they not indeed so bound and interwoven together that is almost impossible to split them from each other without extraordinary violence? (Nadler 2008, 474).

Dutch water channels connectivity and the geographic position on the sea favored a progressive socio-economic innovation in the industries specialized in the blue economy. The Dutch shipbuilding industry was one of the most advanced in the seventeenth century in Europe favoring high mobility in the region favored by the geographic dispositions of the channels. Commerce stimulated by fishing and shipbuilding industry improved the prosperity of Dutch people who started to invest capital in the networks of commerce, shipping and manufacturing. The economic activity in the blue-economy industries favored economic growth of the Netherlands that matured



an excellent financial and commercial hub with the Dutch fishing industry being at the top among other European nations. The Dutch industries in the blue economy field transformed the Netherlands in economic capitalist power, the shipping industry was in comparison as powerful as Great Britain in the nineteenth century and United States today. In the shared knowledge of Dutch citizens, the sea is the element that made them proud to be Dutch people (Lunsford 2005, 69).

The Industrial Revolution was the socio- economic factor that organized and directed the Dutch society toward collective interests giving motivation for positive socialization through which constructive relations initiated between individuals sharing similar aspirations opening the opportunity to undertake collective action, like for instance national exhibitions that had a function of giving prestige to the national identity. (Grever, Wooldijk, 2004, 26- 28) In this manner by the process of interaction social learning and imitation was directed toward the successful blue economy that framed the characteristics of the Dutch society with the collective understanding of the socio-economic interest.

The modernization of towns through economic capitalism and technological innovations had a positive impact on the formation of national identity (Thurman 2001, 3) because the industrial society have intensified the networks of social interactions through new patterns of communication promoted by the state. The Dutch citizens were mobile society in constant social interactions with other individuals promoting social integration through collective action in the national economy.

The Dutch citizens had a collective vision and understanding that the excellency of the ship industry was a national home-made product to which were alleged historic and patriotic sentiment, the naval legends and stories on piracy were promoted with patriotic sentiment in which every Dutch citizen could mirror himself and identify (Lunsford 2005, 87). The socio-economic innovations presented by the shipping industry pulled together diverse social classes to interact under similar collective aspirations. Therefore, the shipping industry was functioning as the social field in which diverse classes of the same society used to identify themselves. The navy as result of industrial revolution source of economic prosperity was presented by the print capitalism to the public sphere. In this scenario Nationalism as ideology flourish attaching emotional sentiment expressed in novels where courageous people were portrayed in the naval challenges presented by the state as the national heroes excelled the identity of every citizen.

## **2.2. The impact of print industry on Dutch society**

The national identity was framed through shared values and interests in which every citizen could mirror himself. The seven provinces interaction and affinity were imaginable because of the socio-economic importance of print culture in creating and establishing the meaning of communication among Dutch citizens. Print capitalism communicated to Dutch citizens the collective interests through sea symbolism and ideas that all citizens comprehended facilitating the social process of interaction among individuals (Lunsford 2005, 87). The literature of national poets that inspired the feeling of belonging to the nation that evolved during the “awakening of vernacular languages” directed the meaning of social interaction between members that shared equal cultural knowledge (Anderson 1983, 75-76). The publication of poetry and novels by the side of intellectuals and philosophers of diverse nations were all motivated and stimulated by the socio-economic condition presented by print- market communicating to the consumers shared knowledge and interests in relation to the national identity.

A single copy of a Pamphlets was reprinted on average between 10.000 to 50.000 copies that used to circulate among the seven provinces of the Netherlands. In the seventeenth century pamphlets or alternatively called “blue books” were produced on purpose for the popular audience of the poorer classes of society that used to include Dutch history and maritime journals that contained the interests of the variety of Dutch people presented in the form of ideas, values and ambitions. The middle class used to identify themselves with alternative reading materials concerning the socio-economic issues and very similar in respect to values and ideas that reflect the Dutch national identity. “Volksboeken” was a famous middle -class newspaper that used to focus on political and economic affairs of the Netherlands (Lunsford 2005, 75). Newspapers played a key factor in addressing information to the public, informing the reader regarding the national affairs in which most of the citizens could mirror themselves and comprehend the national society.

## **2.3. Print capitalism and socio-economic interests**

The print industry was highly active in the Netherlands due to the freedom of expression, high level of literacy and financial prosperity therefore many consumers in the national market. This factor contributed to high range of expansion of Dutch national culture in the form of newspaper, pamphlets, novels and variety of books, creating collective memories and strengthening the national identity. The documented registrations in the book shops estimated that most of the costumers buying books in the seventeenth century were from the upper-middle class, those who

were able to integrate in the socio-economic life of industrial age and could afford spent little money for the printed materials (Lunsford 2005, 74-76).

At the foundation of nationalism not all people immediately felt the national identity, only those who had the ability and financial opportunity to engage in the cultural interaction and socio-economic processes of industrial society. The expansion of the middle class and literacy favored the expansion of national mentality. The Industrial innovations raised the relevance of industrial and commercial middle-class communities who were the first to get in touch with the national ideology expanded by the print capitalism. The nobility, professionals people engaged in the affairs of economic market were the first to experience the feeling of national belonging (Anderson 1983, 75-77).

Citing the title of a pamphlet from 1630 “Oh Trade, this land will build its glory fast upon you!” (Lunsford 2005, 77). The pamphlets usually used to vitalize the commercial and trading nature of the national economy with unitarian prospective where sectors of relevance and profit were presented to the Dutch society. The print capitalism offered the means of communication at the state level communicating industrial business activities and catching the attention and the interest of most of the citizens who shared similar aspirations. Print capitalism favored the positive shared understanding of interaction expressing ideas based on collective interest in a highly mobile and interconnected society. Through positive and constructive socialization collective identity expanded by the collective action toward collective socio-economic interests.

The print industry was the socio-economic innovation that favored the cultural unity of the diverse seven provinces publishing on the market books, novels, pamphlets and newspapers that expressed the Dutch nationalism using the collective interests as means to enable such prospective. (Pettegree, Weduwen 2018, 3 -6) The commercial and trading characteristic of the Dutch economy used to be functional in conferring to the Dutch industrial success patriotic sentiment toward the nation. Following the constructivist theory, the identity is structure through social interaction based on collective interests, presented in the Dutch case by socio-economic innovative activities.

The patriotic sentiment matured through collective action in both sacrifice and prosperity uniting the seven provinces under one nation (Lunsford 2005, 98). High standards of cultural communication made the Dutch society homogeneous with the progression of national memory constructed by elements of collective interest and shared knowledge that founded the Dutch identity.

### **3. EUROPEAN IDENTITY FORMATION**

#### **3.1. Formation of identity through socio-economic evolution**

Karl Deutsch thought of the national identity as the result of interconnected factors that affect the socio-economic organization of the individuals. Infrastructures shape the economic and social activities creating networks of exchange within the national territory. Therefore, infrastructures influence the formation of society while the community is the result of communication that structure shared knowledge of the society. Both society and community are fundamental keys for the foundation of the identity and Deutsch accordingly to the European Integration revised his thinking according to the new scenario. The evolution of economic, social and cultural exchange across the national states create the Europe a security community (Recchi 2015, 128-129) evolving collective identity. Kantian cultural system at the European level opens the opportunity for collective interests and values to interconnect between nationally diverse individuals through socialization represented by socio-economic collective actions. The socio-economic innovation as the Single Market is progressively creating networks of economic and social exchange among the members of the European Union facilitating social interaction and collective European identity formation. The feeling of attachment to the identity is the result of the intensification of constructive socialization that evolve between members of the community motivated by socio-economic organizations.

Klaus Kroemer research concerning sociology and capitalism supported the fact that Max Weber conceived the modernization of capitalism as the process that affects the meaning of interactions and expand new social relations (Kroemer 2016, 24). The intensification of socialization due to the expansion of capitalism rise the necessity to organize the conditions to simplify the exchange based on collective interest represented by socio-economic innovations. European Union is the result of collective regulations, norms and rules that organize the exchange of economic activities through social networks. The innovation and modernization of infrastructures result from scientific-technical advancement creates the conditions for transnational collective actions supported by legislations and regulations at the European level. This factor shapes the European shared knowledge giving constructive meaning to social interaction among social networks that engage in transnational socio-economic activities in Europe.

The European institutions organize the socio-economic exchange and by this process frame the meaning of the European shared knowledge (Favell, Guiraudon 2011, 194-195). Innovations concerning the socio-economic activities expand collective interests at the transnational level and intensify social interactions based on collective interest framing European identity.

Through technological innovations transnational socializations have been intensified significantly, from 69 million in 1960 to 983 million in 2011, important factor that testify the evolution of the age of transnational mobility and communication incrementing the overall interaction opportunities between European citizens (Recchi 2015, 148). Transnational experiences affect the individual meaning of interaction in respect to diverse cultural groups (Mau, Mewes, Zimmermann 2008, 4-5). The most positive impact is given by the working experience, studying in a foreign country and leaving abroad and are considered significant experiences such as the vacations or visiting family members that are resident in a foreign country. The transnational experience affects positively the meaning of interactions amplifying collective activities

### **3.2. Progress of cultural system and shared knowledge**

Herbert Blumer sustain the fact that the structure evolves by the practices of individuals belonging to the structure, therefore the evolution and reproduction of structure is affected by the process of social interaction (Wendt 1999, 185-187). The recognition of values, rules and norms that compose a culture is the result of the positive process of social interaction therefore the structural organization of a group is shaped by the shared knowledge of individuals toward a specific interest by the process of socialization.

Cultural system constitutes the type of shared knowledge in a community through practices and social processes the shared knowledge is reproduced by individuals who socialize with other members of the community. The meaning of interaction and therefore the mentality individuals adopt depend on the cultural system that constitute the shared knowledge, the cultural system is shaped by the state authority which depending on state necessities formulate and propagate the cultural system giving the meaning of interaction. Cooperation among diverse cultural societies is possible only when the meaning of interaction characterizes positively the shared knowledge.

Shared knowledge affects the type of relations among diverse social groups and is given by the cultural system. When the shared knowledge is positive toward the foreign social group it creates a connecting cultural frequency that affect the inter-groups relations in a cooperative manner

where individuals belonging to diverse national groups socialize and engage in collective action based on collective interest evolving their respective identity in the unitarian manner. In this process the regional, national and continental identities are affected

Alexander Wendt identify three cultural structures that shape the shared knowledge, under Hobbesian culture the meaning of the Other is enemy while under Lockean culture the meaning of the Other is rival and under Kantian culture the meaning of the Other is friend. Each of the cultural systems affect the disposition of the Self toward the Other (Wendt 1999, 258). According to this paper the formation of social identity is given by the socio-economic collective actions values and ideas and the cultural system is the mechanism that affects the socio-economic dynamics at the transnational level. The Hobbesian cultural system does not allow the evolution of transnational collective socio-economic activities because the type of relation is based on enmity and the Lockean cultural system is not efficient in this goal because the type of relation is based on rivalry where only political interest are stipulated like for instance the sovereignty right and the status quo in the international arena. While the Kantian cultural system influences collective socio-economic interests because the type of relation is based on friendship which is the key for social identity formation between nationally diverse individuals that do engage in innovative socio-economic activities.

Considering the intra-European relations, the cultural system has evolved through time based on necessities and socio-economic innovations of the states. Realpolitik is not a condition given by nature rather is the result of the Hobbesian cultural system based on enmity in which security dilemma and survival are the main objective in a self-help system. The mentality of states is “kill or to be killed” and the shared knowledge of diverse social groups creates hostile cultural frequency because of the hostile type of relations in which war prevail making impossible collective socio-economic actions at the transnational level

After the Westphalian state system initiated in 1648 the intra-European relations evolved in a qualitative manner favoring Lockean cultural system in which the type of relation between European nations was based on rivalry. Lockean cultural system shaped the type of shared knowledge that constituted the diverse societies of Europe expanding basic norms of international conduct as the sovereignty and status quo (Wendt 1999, 279-283). The Lockean cultural system based on rivalry created solidarity inside the national community and opposition with foreign national communities. In this historic stage the social identity acquired importance to organize collective action against foreigners for defensive purposes creating strong national identity.

Since 1989 for the first time in the History Europe started to evolve the mentality of the Kantian cultural system at the continental level with the type of relation based on friendship structuring European shared knowledge and evolving cooperation among European states that started to develop constructive relations with other members of the European Union. Only the cultural frequency of friendship allows individuals from diverse national groups to initiate collective activities supported by positive interaction based on collective interests, therefore, to meet necessary conditions in the transnational environment for socio-economic cooperation putting the foundations for identity formation.

Through the intensification of social processes and collective action the shared knowledge can evolve qualitatively shaping the social architecture. The quality of the shared knowledge can be classified by “degrees of internalization”. The meaning of norms and values for individuals can have three degrees of internalization on which social conduct evolve in a qualitative manner. At the first-degree individuals are enforced under compulsion, at the second degree individuals are self-interested to adhere to norms while at the third degree individuals perceive the norms as legitimate. The degrees of internalization of norms affect the characteristic of socialization (Wendt 1999, 250)

Each degree represents a level of perceptions of norms by the side of individuals, the first degree of internalization of norms is in line with the neorealist prospective where norms are followed because of the coercion that forces individuals to behave in a specific way like for instance in a dictatorship. While the second degree of internalization of norms follows the neoliberal prospective where individuals decide to adhere to norms not because are perceived as legitimate but because it is in their self interests, purely instrumental motivation beneficial for instance to gain economic benefits The third degree of internalization of norms follows the constructivist prospective where norms are perceived as legitimate and therefore individuals who adhere to the norms perceive them as part of them self framing genuine interest and identity through socialization. (Guzzini, Leander 2006, 3-4)

Today the European Union fluctuate between the second and the third level of internalization, the qualitative third degree of internalization is affected by the ability of socio-economic inclusion the European Union can create for the European community and is in relation to the political will of the member states to collectively innovate and expand socio-economic developments within the European institutions.

The formation of the European identity is characterized by the third degree of internalization of European norms and values following Kantian cultural system. Through collective practices and social processes that expand the European shared knowledge at the third level of internalization expand the genuine European identity. The importance in expanding European socio-economic networks is the key for the intensification of social interactions and collective actions that have the function of enlarging the share of citizens with the European Identity. The internalization at the third level of the European shared knowledge occurs through the patterns of communication that flourish inside the socio-economic networks at the European level.

### **3.3. Positive meaning of interaction in transnational communication**

Individuals who engage in the process of social interaction with foreigners have the tendency to approve equal rights in the labor market. Research promoted by Jürgen Gerhards and Holger Lengfeld highlight that 76.6% of people with transnational experience approve the integration of foreigners inside the labor market while 60.2% of people who socialized with foreigners support socio-economic inclusion and equal rights in the labor market. The opportunity to interact with individuals belonging to diverse cultures affect positively the prospective of local citizens in respect to the foreigners who are resident in their nation (Gerhards, Lengfeld 2015, 62).

Through the intensification of European citizens mobility, the labor market opens the opportunity to engage in collective interests concerning socio-economic activities where the process of interaction affects the identity. Here the connecting bond is given by the social position in the labor market or specialized activity which facilitate the social union between individuals who belong to diverse national groups. European integration favors the socialization among people with similar social position who are enabled to meet people with diverse culture yet with equal goals, for instance ESCO is the European initiative that support job mobility across the European Union (European Commission, 2019). The collective interests among nationally diverse citizens give the motivational force to engage in constructive interaction and the socialization acquires positive meaning, the cultural diversity inherent in individuals do not lead to cultural devaluation on contrary the process of socialization evolve tolerance and interests toward diverse national cultures from which is structured the European identity. Collective interests characterize the type of socialization that affect the prospective of multicultural interaction and increase the overall cultural capital of individuals.

Jeroen van der Waal highlights the relevance of cultural capital in the European society which is given by positive interaction with foreign citizens and indicates the flexibility of norms and values



of individuals. People with low cultural capital are more rigid in their mind set and have the tendency to have a fixed understanding of the society therefore the tolerance and intersubjective understanding of foreigners is low, this fact leads to the preference of homogeneous society based on national culture. Transnational mobility and social interaction unlock high cultural capital leading to “denaturalization of culture” that create the understanding of culture as the construct of man in the society (Gerhards, Lengfeld 2015, 150). Low cultural capital is affected by the precarious socio-economic conditions in the environment where individuals compete for resources and seek job opportunities. From their prospective foreigners are competitors in the labor-market and the meaning of interaction and shared knowledge is negative toward the foreigners.

In the 1960s approximately 25 legislations were promulgated each year while in the years between 1970 and 1985 the legislation promoted increased to 200 each year, consequently between 1986 and 1996 the legislations increased to 600 documentations each year (Flingstein 2008, 54-55). Positive interaction structures the European Union organization defined by the willingness to create collective regulations for the implementation of collective socio-economic actions. The application of European legislations in respect to diverse policy fields have increased quantitatively through decades indicating the fact that the legislations mirror the willingness of the member states in advancing and innovating norms that regulate the European community. Collective action toward rules and legislations have integrated the economy of European members based on intersubjective understanding and collective interests, favoring constructive relations that exceed the national states putting the foundations on the European identity.

### **3.4. Economic Interdependence and homogeneity in values**

The academic Robert Keohane and political scientist Joseph Nye define two crucial characteristics of interdependence, sensitivity and vulnerability. Sensitivity characterize the level of receptivity in respect to a specific policy and to which degree a specific national policy affects other states economically. Sensitivity consider two variables, firstly the size of goods or services movement across border and the cost level related to a single transaction. Interdependence interpreted through sensitivity accounts on the level of intensification of interactions concerning a specific policy field. While vulnerability take in consideration optional alternatives the state has toward a specific policy and the cost level to undertake the alternative option. Interdependence interpreted through vulnerability is characterized by the opportunity for alternatives and the cost level of alternatives (Keohane, Nye 2011, 10-11). Nations with high level of vulnerability have the tendency to evolve high standards of sensitivity through qualitative socio-economic cooperation with other states.

Interdependence can fluctuate at low or high level depending on the intensification of interaction between states. For this reason, high intensification of interaction corresponds to high level of economic interdependence, factor that incline toward cooperation and collective identity formation due to the intensification of collective socio-economic activities.

The year 2015 for instance testify how the economic interdependence resulted with economic profit in relation to the inter-European trade relations. Depending on the size of EU members economies each state gained proportionally economic growth, for example Germany profited 500 billion Euros while Cyprus gained 1 billion. While other eight members of EU, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain increased their exports in goods and services with destiny the Single Market gaining 100 billion Euros in value which correspond to the 80% of the total intra-European trade value. Further economic exchange in respect to twelve members of EU intensified by 100% growth in the frame time 2003 and 2015 .Further five members have seen their trade growing significantly reaching between 50% and 100%, while in other eleven states growth was equal or less than 50% while economic growth resulted over 200% for the members that joined EU since 2004 (Eurostat 2017). Considering the nature of EU interdependence is possible to deduce that high level of sensitivity and vulnerability between the member states is the result of high level of intra-European exports

The economic interdependence is facilitated by homogeneity in values and ideology that function as supportive elements of the mechanism of cooperation favoring collective identity formation (Wendt 1999, 354). Democracy and capitalism are both key elements that characterize European member states and affect the intersubjective understanding between individuals who engage in economic cooperation framing collective norms and rules. Homogeneity in this sense affect the standard of relations giving constructive meaning to cooperation intensifying interaction based on collective socio-economic interests.

European cultures have similarities in lifestyle and values considered legitimate by the EU citizens that evaluate the quality of socio-economic condition giving relevance to consumption sensitivity, family life, working environment, leisure time and the opportunity to travel around Europe. (Checkel, Katzenstein 2009, 204). European values are framed through the European norms and regulations that organize and support human rights, social rights and offer secure environment for the EU citizens. Creating qualitative educations standards and equality among women and men in the socio-economic environments. The European social architecture has the ambition and willingness to create qualitative life for the European citizens with respect toward cultural diversity

creating European shared knowledge that stimulate the intensification of social interactions among European people.

### **3.5. Role of the Single Market in European identity formation**

The intra-European economic magnitude is approximately 40% of GDP and more than 66% of total EU exports (Eurostat 2017). This fact supports the idea that the Single Market is the result of the Kantian cultural system that structure the type of shared knowledge based on friendship where members of EU can meet collective socio-economic interests. EU is based on shared norms and rules agreed by governments as such Single Market is the result of positive interaction and collective interests through which networks of European society enlarge.

Market is a social field where production of services and goods are socially organized through collective norms which result from social interaction between members of a given organization (Favell, Guiraudon 2011, 102). Cooperation in economy and the growth of norms and rules to organize labor movement, commerce and capital is motivated by the positive economic results, therefore positive collective actions give the motivation to engage in constructive relations increasing cooperation and creating new networks intensifying socio-economic connectivity.

Between 1970 and 1997 the European community amplified the stake of manufacturing commodities with destination the Single Market. This fact indicates that the European members directed the manufacturing export toward the European continent. The most intense exporting period was between 1980 and 1990, decade in which the Single Market project was integrated by the European nations. The growth in export was possible because of the structural innovations through which were introduced new norms and rules facilitating trade among European member states. The intra-regional trade expanded across all members increasing the economic productivity, Germany, France, Spain and Belgium increased by 80% exported products while Italy, the Netherlands and Austria increased by 70% exported products. (Favell, Guiraudon 2011, 108-109). Each new member who joined the European community has seen own export growing significantly because of the creation of the Single Market and the interdependence that intensified collective socio-economic interests.

This factor affects the mobility of European citizens for multiple purposes as work, holidays, and education for instance creating socio-economic opportunities for the upper- middle class who engaged in transnational interaction and collective interests in the emerging social fields while the

low-class benefitted indirectly through the lowering of prices for goods and services that compose the networks of intra-European economy (Flingstein 2008, 11). The creation of the Single Market increased the occupational opportunities and economic growth among the European community innovating trade patterns and collective economic activities. Through the intensification of collective socio-economic activities European society rise the standards of socialization with other members of the community structuring European identity.

Today a small portion of the total European population, 12.7% have the European identity when it comes to consider the level of collective socio- economic ideas, values and actions. (Flingstein 2008, 141). High level of interdependence affects the social prospective inside the social fields of individuals who share collective interests and engage in collective actions with other members of the European community with similar ideas and values concerning socio-economic collective fields. The shared knowledge with the qualitative meaning in respect to legitimacy of norms and values at the third level of internalization is already a reality in expansion by the intensification of communication and opportunity of inclusion in respect to collective socio-economic activities.

### **3.6. Socio-economic connectivity and enlargement of the middle class, key to European Identity**

Europeanization and liberalization affect negatively lower – class workers with low educational degree that compete in the labor market and perceive Europeanization as form of threat to already precarious socio-economic condition. Competition for limited resources creates shared knowledge with negative meaning of the Other, therefore the emigrants and foreigner’s influx due to European policies creates hostility toward European Union (Gerhards, Lengfeld 2015, 59).

The ability to evolve transnational constructive relations is given by the Single Market integration for instance, that opens new opportunities for positive social interaction with other members of the European community to meet collective interests in relation to trade, commerce, business partnership, government personnel, professors and other activities that concerns the young people who share the interests in transnational mobility to meet their interests for education or pleasure (Flingstein 2008, 139). The socio-economic inclusion is the key factor that affect the mentality and the vision individuals adopt in respect to the European identity. This is the reason why those who support the European integration and embody the European identity are people who have socio-economic interest inside the European Union. The European networks of the upper-middle class characterized by individuals who are specialists, directors, people with higher education,

agronomists and economically prosperous support the European integration as they have the motivational force and opportunity to engage in transnational interaction and opportunity to construct positive relations with other members of the European Union. European identity will expand if more people engage in social interaction based on the opportunity to evolve collective interests transnationally.

In relation to the opportunity of inclusion the socio-economic conditions affect the posture of individuals toward EU as researched by Jürgen Gerhards who indicates that 80% of the upper-middle class, as professionals, managers, higher degree individuals and other people in the similar social status evaluate positively the equality of socio-economic inclusion in the labor market for all European members without privileging the compatriot due to ethnic similarity. While inclusion decreases among manual, blue-collar workers to 60% and is lower among unskilled workers which support decreases to 55% and among farmers and crafts-man the idea of equality at European level in the labor market is a hostile condition in the socio-economic field in which they operate. Considering the position of individuals who are unemployed and with high-school degree only the support for equality declines at 40%. The level of education affects the prospective of the European integration as the educational standards rise the probabilities of socio-economic inclusion for qualitative positions and increases the probability of socialization in relation to collective interests with other members of the European community. On the other side low degree educational standards affect the prospective toward national mentality with the inclination to socialize only with the locals (Gerhards, Lengfeld 2015, 60).

EU support meetings at universities that take together professors of diverse nationalities to innovate the state of knowledge in a specific field of studies. The knowledge and information evolve the process of interaction among people with similarities contributing to the formation of European society. Organizations that take together managers, professionals, doctors, IT specialists and many others are fundamental in creating intersubjective understanding and collective action toward European Identity (Fligstein 2008, 175). The expansion of shared knowledge and interests through collective action and interaction is also regulated through the organizations that take together people from diverse nationalities with similar specializations and occupations. The education and exchange of ideas in respect to a specialization in a socio-economic field offer the opportunity to create affinity among people with similar ambitions from different nationalities.

Since 1968 European Union promoted social rights related to transnational European employment, the normative 1408/71 includes obligations toward health assistance, employment injury,

disability, pensions and family members for employers who are active in another EU state (Gerhards, Lengfeld 2015, 86) European workers and family members who are resident in another EU member state benefit from social rights related to employment with relevance toward equality in socio-economic inclusion in the labor market. The motivation is to increase the opportunity for mobility and increment socialization toward collective interest at the continental level through rules that assure social protection in the working environment. This process increases the creation and amplification of socio – economic fields where European identity is shaped.

## **4. CASE STUDY – EUROPEAN IDENTITY FORMATION IN THE NETHERLANDS**

### **4.1. Evolution of from Hobbesian to Kantian cultural system, the case of Spanish – Dutch relations**

Considering the evolution of European transnational relations in respect toward cultural systems and the type of shared knowledge the relations between Spain and the Netherlands have changed through time and evolved qualitatively when it comes to consider the civilizing process based on state necessity and socio-economic innovation. The sixteenth century was characterized by the Hobbesian cultural system and therefore Dutch newspapers described with hostility the Spanish society (Lunsford 2005, 77) propagating hostile shared knowledge.

During the Eighty Years War in the sixteenth century realpolitik was the necessary approach to adopt for the Netherlands to reach independence against Spanish occupation therefore the Hobbesian cultural system based on enmity structured hostile shared knowledge that affected the type of norm and the social architecture toward the “Other” creating hostile cultural frequency inclining toward war. Consequent to the Münster peace treaty in the 1648 between Spain and the Netherland the seven Dutch republics were recognized independent from Spain (New World Encyclopedia 2013). The peace treaty transformed the Netherlands in a legitimate sovereign state and by the virtue of Westphalian state system the evolution from Hobbesian to the Lockean cultural system oriented the category of relations between both nations toward rivalry structuring a new type of civilized shared knowledge framing basic international norms of conduct.

During the Lockean cultural system Dutch diplomacy had the willingness in maintaining stable the political relations with Spain and the treaty of Seville of the 1729 was the diplomatic result. The new cycle of relations introduced Dutch economic activities in the Spanish markets motivated by the commercial potentiality the Spanish markets offered to the Dutch socio-economic collective interests (Crespo 2009, 7-8). The change in the political cultural system affected the socio-economic dynamics structuring a new type of shared knowledge that incremented socialization based on collective interests. Industrial innovations and commercial trade presented new socio-economic opportunities in the Spanish- Dutch relations.

## **4.2. Interdependence and homogeneity**

Today Dutch economy has developed high levels of sensitivity and vulnerability as a result of the interdependence inside the Single Market with the national economy extremely dependent on the dynamics that affect and structure the economic relations between member states (Government of the Netherlands 2018). The total value of the Dutch export is 436 billion Euros while the export that is designed to the Single Market has the value of 336 billion Euros (OEC 2018). Considering the nature of Dutch export is possible to deduce that the Netherlands has developed socio-economic networks inside the European community that reflect collective interests through collective actions in trade and commerce. The homogeneous liberal values as democracy and capitalism are both key elements that characterize both the UE and the Netherlands and are mirrored in the qualitative economic relations with other members of the European Community. This fact should demonstrate that cooperation in respect to the socio-economic fields of collective interests is the result of the type of shared knowledge based on the Kantian cultural system.

## **4.3. European identity values and ideals in Amsterdam**

The cultural diversity characterizes the European Union and the slogan “European unity in diversity” reflect this fact. The approach to diversity in the European sense aims at tolerance and liberal values. The positive meaning of interaction valorizes differences and characteristic of the European shared knowledge which affect significantly the evolution and innovation processes of economy and cultural standards enabling the condition of interdependence among liberal and democratic states that characterize the European community (Checkel, Katzenstein 2009, 201). Identification has the purpose to appreciate the diversity that compose the Union not exclusively political issues but also economic and social developments. Interest and tolerance toward the Other which presume a social maturity of European ideology in which the diversity is valorized and cultivated through constructive relations.

Amsterdam is the city where multicultural social networks interconnect diverse European people the reason why can be considered as the archetype European city with the socio-economic system organized to enable collective action among diverse national groups. The social interactions in a multicultural environment evolve high cultural capital with liberal appeal which is the key value of European identity. (Favell 2008, 5). Traditionally trade nation expanded networks at the continental level favoring free movement of capital, goods and people, this is the reason why today the Dutch capital matured tolerance toward other European individuals with the type of Kantian



shared knowledge based on friendship when evaluating collective actions with other European people. Diversity enrich a community considering the socio-economic conditions and Amsterdam can be defined as the European center of transnational experience of many EU citizens.

Karl Deutsch theory exposes the idea on the effects of transnational experience on the Self, illustrating that the identification with the national state decreases significantly by the growth of transnational experiences due to the fact that the transnational experiences open the engagement in transnational networks in which social interaction and collective action with a plurality of individuals from diverse nations evolve the identity (Gerhards, Lengfeld 2015, 61) increasing the feeling of belonging toward European identity.

Amsterdam offers qualitative socio-economic conditions including job opportunities with admirable social assistances in the working environment like for instance in the telecommunication business where many diverse European people enhance in collective action. Amsterdam is an attractive hub for Managers and professionals in the finance field and other fields of significant relevance mostly for future employments such as the digital field. Prestigious specializations are demanded in the Dutch capital in respect to IT, e-commerce, human resources, law, finance and computer software businesses. Liberal value and ideas characterize the shared knowledge of Dutch society reflected in the market capitalist approach and the socio-economic organization of the society with further strong evaluation of the social rights that allows the developments of social organizations that innovate the working environment and give to the workers social advantages such as the childcare and space for the leisure time (Favell 2008, 23-24). Upper-Middle class job opportunities and valuable legislations that organize the job-market opens the opportunity to capitalist business activities to flourish, and this is the reason why many EU citizens decide to establish their life in Amsterdam due to welcoming business environment which function as motivational force to enhance in collective action due to collective interests with Dutch society. Following constructivist theory, the intensification of social interaction based on collective interests presented by socio-economic opportunities in Amsterdam evolve the identity at the European level.

#### **4.4. Dutch identity and European citizenship**

From the research made by the European Parliament resulted that 51% of Dutch people identify themselves as both National and Europeans. The values that most characterize the European identity for Dutch citizens are democracy and liberal approaches 69% while the Single currency is the second symbol that most define the European identity 55%. The welfare is the most

considered field when evaluating the strengthening of European Identity, social rights in relation to healthcare, education and pension is a crucial factor 46%. The common interests among the EU citizens are evaluated as much more important factor rather than differences among EU citizens by 84% of the Dutch population, proving Kantian shared knowledge with positive meaning toward the other members of the Union. The shared knowledge among Dutch citizens has qualitative third degree of internalization of norms in relation to two fundamental factors which has been attained by EU. Peace between member states 64% and ability of free movement of goods, services and people 63% in the EU, this fact demonstrates the impact of the Kantian cultural system progression among EU citizens. *De facto* 60% of Dutch citizens believes that the European membership contributes to high standards of European cooperation between the Netherlands and EU while 54% of Dutch citizens believes that EU enhance economic growth for their country (EP Eurobarometer 2016).

#### **4.5. Digital Revolution and European Identity formation**

The digitalization is changing the way of how we live and how we work because of the innovations in respect to digital technologies that are going to progressively evolve smart industries, smart cities and smart health integrating new socio-economic environments (Spelman 2016). New jobs opportunities will advance by 2030 with the replacement and creation of new working environments in the digital age with the estimation of 57 million degrees in relation to the digital field of studies and potentiality of 4 billion Euros of value per day can be created which equals to 9% of EU GDP (ETNO 2017, 10-12). The digital industry offers new prospective in the socio-economic environment as such is the new industrial revolution characterized by innovation in technology that will evolve the processes of economic productivity with qualitative advancement concerning goods and services organization. The digital revolution affects all infrastructures related to economy and offers new opportunities in the job market that guides EU institutions in the creation of the Single Digital Market that will facilitate the interconnection of smart industries among European member states (European Commission 2015). The Digital Single Market has the potentiality to contribute by 415 billion Euros each year to the European economy and create new occupations that will require new skills and specializations rising considerably the intensification of social interaction among EU citizens (European commission 2017). This will evolve new socio-economic fields of inclusion and will contribute to the enlargement of European middle-class

characterized by the motivational force to enhance in collective action due to collective interests in the digitalized economy.

The socio-economic innovations affect the intensification of interaction and communication among EU citizens, the younger generations for instance have the tendency to be more attached to the European Union because of the use of internet that affect significantly the communication patterns giving a sense of virtual mobility that shape the shared knowledge expanding European identity (Recchi 2015, 141). Digitalization of social, political and economic environments mediate the processes of identity formation through the digital connectivity and interconnection of technological platforms that support infrastructures and increment online activities (World Economic Forum 2018, 9-11). Digital environment is the key for our daily communication and facilitate and increment social interactions throughout diverse fields of our life interconnecting society at the continental level contributing to the foundation of identity (Klemm 2018, 185). Technological and digital innovations not only affect the expansion of capitalism and socio-economic organization but additionally characterize the patterns of communication producing and sustaining the shared knowledge. Internet can be considered as virtual journey in which interpersonal interactions affect the identity.

#### **4.6. Digital revolution in the Netherlands**

ICT developments in the Netherlands affect the innovation and economic growth giving opportunity to new business activities to flourish considering the magnitude of Dutch economy, the researches highlights the period between 1990 and 2013 ICT innovations contributed with 36% of the total economic growth of Dutch economy also through digitalization of infrastructures (Ministry of Economic Affairs 2016). The Digitalization of economy require organize the society with education and trainings toward new specializations and skills with certain specific knowledge, for instance software programmers, cybersecurity specialist, data analysts, information and communication specialists and other ICT and technical sectors represent focus of new and innovative educational standards because of the increasing job opportunities that will characterize the current and future generations in the socio-economic environment.

Enhancing in trainings require by the side of individuals basic social abilities as the mathematical calculations and read for instance are part the basic skills at the formative stage during education and training for the successful integration in the chains of the industrial economy (Gellner 1983,

26-28) the Industrial Revolution gave to the market a big variety of new occupations, the reason why the new jobs required specializations in the diverse sectors of economy. In this scenario education raised in relevance as the individuals had the necessity to know specific mechanical skills to adopt in the industrial society. In the process of education specialization become a qualitative move forward in the modern society as it opens the opportunity for valuable occupations.

Education have always been the crucial factor in the socio-economic organization of the society when the technological advancement upgrades in the History. The digital revolution is affecting all professional sectors the reason why the European Union need to organize and invest in education and training toward new specialized occupations (BusinessEurope 2017, 29) Yet the meaning of education is shaped by the state necessities, because of the European interdependence and the Kantian cultural frequency that characterize EU, through education evolves European shared knowledge creating the social environment for identity formation. The digitalization will intensify the interaction and collective action among EU citizens, starting from developed digitalized hubs like the Netherlands for instance, creating. social fields in which shared knowledge has positive meaning toward European identity. Amsterdam back in 2016 received “ Innovation Capital Award” from the European Commission due to the progress the city is making in respect to the digital innovation for infrastructures and digital platforms that regulate the socio-economic activities (D’Antonio, Patti, Polyak, 2018).

Further socio-economic activities through the digitalization of economy affect the creation of smart industries and transnational online business activities, that in the period between 2014 and 2017 in the Netherlands intensified the digital entrepreneurial procedures by Dutch companies which are one of the highest prestige in Europe (Europe’s Digital Progress Report 2017, 7). This factor creates a favorable socio-economic environment for new specialized occupations for EU citizens. The Digital industry and the digital connectivity increase the processes of interaction within new or innovated socio-economic networks that support the creation of European social fields where the social interaction is motivated by collective action in direction toward collective socio-economic interests. Defined as “time space compression” in which technical-scientific innovation affect the telecommunication virtual travelling gives the ability to communicate and get in touch with distant places enabling the opportunity of interaction and willingness of face to face interactions (Urry 2000, 49). Virtual communication through emails, calls, Internet and chat rooms socialization increment connectivity among people intensifying the overall interaction opportunities among EU citizens.

## CONCLUSION

The thesis demonstrates in accordance with the hypothesis of the paper that the innovations in the socio-economic conditions affect the formation of social identity affecting the meaning of interaction between individuals based on collective interest. Socio-economic innovations affect the organization of the society as both National and European identity are directed through innovative socio-economic developments. Currently socio-economic dynamics define the European relations putting the basis for collective identity formation. Social identity is the essential key element in the dynamics of European integration crucial for advancing genuine political integration. The thesis is designed through constructivist theory as it permits to interpret social identity in evolution through social interaction based on collective interests presented in the paper by socio-economic developments. The research focus on the Netherlands as case study to illustrate National and European identity formation exposed chronologically through the innovation of socio-economic conditions that affected the organization of society leading to formation of the social identity.

In the first part of the research is illustrated the relevance of the print industry and how it impacts the meaning of interaction inside a linguistically homogeneous community intensifying communication and interaction among individuals. Industrial revolution evolved the society from agrarian to industrial socio-economic organization while the technological advancement needed educated work force to be integrated in the industrial life and the national ideology was functional in the socio-economic developments inside the state. Ethnicity key characteristic of national mentality gained political and socio-economic prestige facilitating the formation of national identity.

The Dutch national identity was characterized by the innovative industrial growth with specialized affinity toward commerce and trade incrementing connectivity, interaction and collective interests inside Dutch community valorizing the national shared knowledge based on socio-economic innovations. The economic prosperity favored the expansion of the upper- middle class, the first to get in touch with the national culture through the socio-economic inclusion in the industrial society.

In the second part of the thesis are exposed the dynamics of European identity formation, on which Karl Deutsch declared that the socio-economic innovations expand the patterns of communication at the transnational level intensifying interactions between individuals in the EU. Although Max Weber theorized the importance of scientific-technical innovations in alighting collective interests and consequently amplifying transnational communication. Then the role of the evolution of cultural system and its effect on the shared knowledge in opening the opportunity for socio-economic cooperation at the transnational level. Through time Hobbesian, Lockean and Kantian cultural systems evolved, based on the necessities of States and the stage of social and economic innovation. This paper highlights the importance of the Kantian cultural system as it allows to engage in transnational socio-economic activities putting the foundation on the European Identity. Kantian cultural system allows to engage in constructive socialization framing transnational experiences incrementing the cultural capital and positive perception of the Other, motivated by collective socio-economic interests that evolve common elements in respective identities enabling the formation of collective rules as presented under European institutions.

Economic interdependence incline toward formation of European identity through socio-economic networks that do have collective interests inside the Single Market and enhance in positive interaction with other members of the European Union. The importance of intra-European trade is crucial for all the members of EU. Homogeneity in values and ideology as democracy and capitalism facilitate qualitative collaboration reflected in the lifestyle, values and ideals of EU citizens aspiring for qualitative socio-economic standards. Major opportunities are accessible for the upper-middle class who have the tendency to support Europeanization due to collective socio-economic interests expanding European identity.

European identity is connected to the socio-economic connectivity at the European level, therefore is crucial to expand and connect the middle-class in the dynamics of socio-economic inclusion to evolve European shared knowledge at the third level of internalization. The expansion of European shared knowledge is incremented further by organizations that unite together specialized professionals with diverse nationalities yet with similar ambitions and interests expanding European networks.

Cultural system has evolved through time looking at Dutch -Spanish relations as sample of European relations. Hobbesian cultural system was dominant during the Eighty Years War when the Netherlands had the necessity to obtain independence from Spanish imperialism. Consequent to the socio-economic modernization and commercial growth in the seventeenth century Dutch -

Spanish relations matured at the level of Kantian cultural system initiating an age of positive and constructive relations based on collective interests.

Today Dutch economy is highly dependent on the revenues from exporting inside the Single Market, with liberal and democratic characteristics the Netherlands traditionally developed qualitative economic relations with the members of European Union. While Amsterdam can be considered as the typical European city with multicultural European networks that enable connection and interaction in a highly innovative environment leading to socio-economic collective interests evolving European identity among Dutch citizens and European citizens who are resident in Amsterdam due to socio-economic motivations.

Digital revolution is evolving the socio-economic organization of the society in the same manner as the Industrial Revolution did in the seventeenth century. The digital revolution will intensify the connectivity among the European citizens creating new specialized occupations that will require qualitative standards of education to integrate in the socio-economic organization of European Union. The Digital Single Market will intensify connectivity and expand European middle class favoring the evolution of European shared knowledge at the third degree of internalization. The Netherlands is one of the most advanced digital states in Europe with innovative infrastructures and digital platforms that contribute to economic growth and opportunities for new specialized occupations in the digital sector. Kantian culture frequency at the European level will affect the education favoring expansion of positive shared knowledge toward EU society framing European identity through collective socio-economic interests.

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