

# **Cultural Education – a Means of Forming Cultural Identity**

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## **Abstract.**

The author of the article presents the importance and roles of cultural education in the contemporary society and education. She studies the concept and practice of cultural education in connection with forming cultural identities and with the focus on the youngsters. She points at multidimensional and complex impact of educational programmes within the cultural infrastructure and their capacity to bring up actual topics and challenges the societies are facing. She explains that awareness and conscious forming of one's identity is an important part of self-development and growing into an empowered adult. This is especially important in the postmodern society where cultural identities are fluid, multiplied, fragmented and constantly produced and reproduced in the processes of representation, positioning and sociocultural reference, which can result in identity and values disorientation. Cultural educational programmes combine two key elements - the topic and form of its presentation. A single idea, when understood and put into practice, can bring dramatic change to life and fate of an individual. What are the ingredients of such programmes? What possible transformation can they bring and in which areas of one's life? The author gives illustrative examples from the Central-European and Eastern-European contexts, she analyses their structure and studies the ways they form cultural identities and cultural competencies of their participants.

**Keywords:** cultural institution, competencies, educational programmes, socialization, youth