

***SELF-ESTEEM AND PERSONALITY TYPE IN POLITICALLY
ENGAGED PEOPLE: A PILOT STUDY***

Irina MACSINGA and Andreea SEMENESCU

Abstract: The Romanian political institution is destined to survive in the face of the individual's ideological abandonment, passivity and reserve, as well as in the face of a society denouncing the mediocrity of the political class. Based on these considerations, this pilot study sets out to explore and reveal specific personality traits of the Romanian politicians, including the level of self-esteem. A total of 80 participants (divided into two groups, with or without political engagement) completed the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale (RSES). The results have shown that politically engaged people have a predominant Extrovert Intuitive Feeling Judicative personality type; however, regarding self-esteem, no significant differences were identified in comparison to the group of persons having no political engagement. The results of this pilot study are of interest allowing a better understanding of a politician's mindset and behavior.

Keywords: politics, differential study, personality type, self-esteem

1.1. Introduction

According to some authors, personality is inherited (Eysenck, 1967), while according to others, it is shaped by social influences (Mischel, 2007). Beside the heredity factors, researchers agree that personality, in its diachronic development, is also significantly influenced by external aspects, belonging to the social area, such as the institutional environment and society, by the values it sustains and promotes. From this point of view, personality appears as a social construct, and the multiple theoretical approaches explain the way this construction has evolved across time (Caprara and Cervone, 2000).

1.2. Psychological Types

A psychological type is defined as a category of individuals who share similarities (Cloninger, 1993). This perspective pursues a qualitative description, by placing the person in a certain category. Jung (1994) postulated the existence of *a personality dimension* (introversion-extroversion) and of *four functions, polarized* two by two (Thinking-Feeling, Sensing-Intuition), the combination of which results in *eight personality types*. Myers (1980) added a Judging – Perceiving function which reflects the individual's preference for an orderly planned or a spontaneous flexible environment. The Judging- Perceiving index indicates, also, whether the rational or irrational function is dominant (McCrae and Costa, 1989).

1.3. Extroversion-Introversion (EI)

The EI dimension reflects the way of interacting with the world and the direction of channeling energy (McCaulley, 1990). Jung (1994) established that individuals are different at the level of psychic energy orientation: inwards – introvert, or outwards - extrovert. Thus, *extroverts* seek interaction and possess a predominantly external rewarding system, as they are attracted by the world of objects and people; generally, extroversion is linked to the strength of approach motives (Carver et al., 2000). *Introverts* seek solitude, and avoid being at the centre of attention. An introvert is quiet, reserved, introspective, and does not enjoy participating in group activities (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1969).

1.4. Sensing–Intuition (SN)

The SN dimension reflects the way of extracting information from

reality, which can be concrete, focused on the parts of a structure (sensing) or synthesizing implicitly comprehensible information and relationships (intuition). The sensing personality type has conventional interests, while the intuition personality type has artistic and investigative interests (Apostal, 1991). Isaksen and Lauer (2003, p. 345) asserted that ‘those who prefer sensing tend to focus on immediate experiences, realism and a practical emphasis on details from both past and present experiences, and they may not attend sufficiently to future possibilities; those who prefer intuition are more oriented toward possibilities, meanings, and relationships obtained through insight’.

1.5. Thinking-Feeling (TF)

The TF dimension defines the passing of judgment and the taking of decisions. The rational evaluation of alternatives lies at the root of thinking, and the appreciation of emotional value reflects feeling. Myers et al. (1998) consider that the thinking personality is objective and impersonal, while the personality type based on feeling relies more on personal values and is more subjective.

1.6. Judging –Perceiving (JP)

The JP dimension refers to the importance of organization and spontaneity in the life of the individual. McCaulley (1990, p. 184) asserts that ‘when the orientation toward the world uses judgment (J), persons enjoy moving quickly toward decisions and enjoy organizing, planning, and structuring. When the orientation to the world uses perception (P), persons enjoy being curious and open to changes, preferring to keep options open in case something better turns up’. The popularity of the Jungian categorization

of psychological types is based on its relevance in a variety of areas: education (Malloy, 2009), business environment (Duncan, 2009), leadership (Brown and Reilly, 2009), psychopathology (Srivastava et al., 2010), career development, organizational behavior, team development or psychotherapy (Quenk, 1999).

1.7. Self-Esteem

According to Rosenberg (1965), *self-esteem* was defined as *an individual's global judgments about him or herself*, including levels of self-worth, self-acceptance and self-respect (Hu et al., 2008). Some researchers consider that self-esteem is a global self-concept determined by specific self-concepts (Wagner and Valtin, 2004). The psychology literature distinguishes between trait self-esteem and state self-esteem. The self-esteem as trait is relatively stable over time, while state self-esteem depends on the immediate conditions. Rosenberg, Schooler, Schoenbach and Rosenberg (1995) found that the effects of self-evaluation on self-esteem in limited domains depended on the value the person attached to the domain. Similarly, Rogers (1961) found that the level of self-esteem is connected to the importance and significance that the subject confers to wanted qualities. The cause of the lowest self-esteem is the distance between the Real Self and the Ideal Self or the personality incongruence. The concept of self-esteem implies cognitive support for the respect for one's own self. The image of one's self is strongly influenced by aspirations and ideals and by the perception of the significant others' expectations of one.

Beside this global evaluation, individuals also carry out private self-evaluation. It is interesting that a trait that is more pronounced and obvious to one self and to the others is little manipulated in the inter-relational game. Some authors (Iluț, 2001) consider that people tend to evaluate themselves at

a mediocre level, by relating to two criteria: competence and morality. The concept of self-esteem is related to many other psychological constructs and is significant in different areas: clinical rehabilitation (Vickery et al., 2008), adolescence (Arslan, 2009), education (Cheng and Furnham, 2004). The competence and performance are directly affected by the level of self-esteem (Judge and Bono, 2001). Also, it has been found that those with a high self-esteem interpret their successes in various ways; they do various attributions and behave variedly, while those with a low self-esteem have more limited behaviors and self-attributions, and have a higher level of predictability (Judge and Bono, 2001). High self-esteem has been reported to be a strong predictor of well-being (Campbell, 1981; Diener, 1984).

1.8. Previous Researches on Personality and Politics

Zimbardo, Caprara and Barbaranelli (2003) showed that persons involved in political life differ from persons having no implication in political life under three characteristics: they have a high level of social desirability, extraversion and agreeableness. They did not find significant differences at the level of conscientiousness, emotional stability or openness.

A study of Caprara, Schwartz, Capanna, Vecchione and Barbaranelli (2006) examines the importance of the personal characteristics of voters for political choice, using the Five Factor Model of personality traits and the Schwartz theory of basic personal values. The results showed that center-left voters scored higher than center-right voters on the traits of friendliness and openness and lower in energy and conscientiousness. Regarding values center-left voters scored higher than center-right voters in universalism, benevolence, and self-direction and lower in security, power, achievement, conformity, and tradition.

Funk (1999, in Caprara, Barbaranelli, Vecchione and Fraley, 2007) show that the traits of the political candidate play an important role in organizing political knowledge preferences. More, Caprara, Barbaranelli, Vecchione and Fraley (2007), studying the qualities of political candidates, show that these qualities account for a large amount of the variance in the candidate preference of voters. They argue that “voters form impressions of political candidates by anchoring the judgments in basic personality traits—personal qualities that are thought to be relatively consistent across contexts and stable over time” (Caprara et al., 2007, p.395) Chirumbolo and Leone (2010) investigated the impact of the Big Five Model of personality structure in predicting political ideology and voting. Results showed that Conscientiousness was related with voting for right-wing parties, whereas Agreeableness and Openness were related to voting for left-wing parties. They, also, showed that ideological orientation mediated the relationship between personality traits and voting.

Duckitt and Sibley (2010) started from the idea of the existence of two distinct ideological attitude dimensions, best captured by the constructs of right-wing authoritarianism and social dominance orientation. The authors explain a dual-process motivational model of how these dimensions originate from particular personality dispositions and how their different motivational goals or values generate their effects on social outcomes.

Gerber, Huber, Doherty, and Dowling (2011), examining the relationship between personality traits (the Big Five) and the consumption of political information, find that the Big Five traits are significant predictors of political interest. The authors show that Openness and Emotional Stability are related to a broad range of engagement with political information and political knowledge and Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, and Extraversion are associated only with consumption of specific types of political information.

2.1. Aim

Starting out from these theoretical aspects, the intention of this study is to present in a comparative manner the predominant personality type and the self-esteem in persons engaged in political life opposite to those not engaged in political life according to the following hypotheses:

1. *Persons who are politically engaged are more extroverted, judicative and more rational than those who are not politically engaged*
2. *Persons who are not politically engaged have a higher level of self-esteem compared with persons without engagement in politics.*

2.2. Participants

The group of participants (N = 80) was divided into *two samples*, according to the criterion: with or without political involvement. Of these, 40 persons were members of political parties: counselors, advisers, party leaders, heads of office, mayors. Political engagement is operationalized by combining the following criteria: (a). regular meetings with the electorate; (b). frequency of mediated appearances, (c). number of participations in political debate; (d). number of legislative initiatives at local level, (e). number of organized electoral campaigns.

The group of 40 participants without political engagement was made up of persons who declared that they were not part of any political party, are not interested in politics and do not meet any criteria mentioned above. Political engagement measured by the composite indicator from above is used in this study as criteria variable for the construction of the samples. Other variables, like age, gender, educational level, and marital status were controlled in both samples:

Table 1: Sample characteristics

Subjects with political involvement	Subjects without political involvement
Gender: F 47,5%	Gender: F 47,5%
Average age: 40, 06 years	Average age: 40,17 years
Education: 67,5% university level, 27,5% high school level, 5% post-graduate level	Education: 70 % university level, 25% high school level, 5% post-graduate level
Marital status : 57,5% married	Marital status: 65% married

2.3. Methods

The variables used in the study, personality type and self esteem, are measured by the following indicators:

(a). The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (Myers et al., 1998) is a self-report, forced-choice personality inventory that was based on Carl Jung's theory of psychological types. The MBTI consists of four bipolar scales: the Extraversion-Introversion (EI); the Sensing-Intuition (SN) scale; the Thinking-Feeling (TF), and the Judging-Perceiving (JP). The eight raw scores, which are the scores on the two opposing poles of the four scales, can distribute individuals into 16 possible categories or types. The original English questionnaire was translated into Romanian and then translated back into English. The questionnaire took about 10 minutes to complete and the majority of the participants showed a fair amount of interest in the subject. Subject responses on the 32 items were scored to yield eight preference scores. The pole with a higher score on each MBTI scale represent the subject's personality preference on the scale (e.g. a person scoring higher on Extraversion than Introversion, Intuition than Sensation, Thinking than Feeling, and Judging than Perceiving would be classified as 'Extraverted

Intuitive Thinking Judging’). The combinations of two possible preferences poles on four personality scales yield a total of 16 personality types. Internal consistency of the subscales was: .82 (EI); .78 (SN); .89 (TF); .76 (JP).

(b). The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965) evaluates the global trait self-esteem and was adapted to Romanian samples (David, 2007). A 10-item brief RSES refers to one’s own self and capacity in relationship to other individuals and has demonstrated high internal consistency and validity (Fleming and Courtney, 1984). Subjects have to evaluate themselves for each item, by expressing their agreement with the statements on a 4-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). Cronbach’s alpha in our sample is .81.

2.4. Results

Hypothesis 1 – *Persons who are politically engaged are more extroverted, judicative and more rational than those who are not politically engaged.*

Table 2: Descriptive statistics in personality type functions

Function	Extroversion	Sensing	Thinking	Judgment
Political subjects N=40	av.=27,8 st.dev.=7,25	av.=19,62 st.dev.=9,17	av.=18,15 st.dev.=8,66	av.=23,22 st.dev.=6,58
Apolitical subjects N=40	av.=21,9 st.dev.=6,93	av.=19,85 st.dev.=7,03	av.=23,47 st.dev.=6,69	av.=19,80 st.dev.=6,12

For the testing of this hypothesis we used the “t” Student test, taking into account both the values of the averages and standard deviations of the

personality type functions. These statistical indicators reveal a normal distribution of participants, in both samples. Because the functions corresponding to the personality type are polarized two by two, in the statistical analysis we only took into consideration one function at a time.

Figure 1: Differences at the level of personality type functions

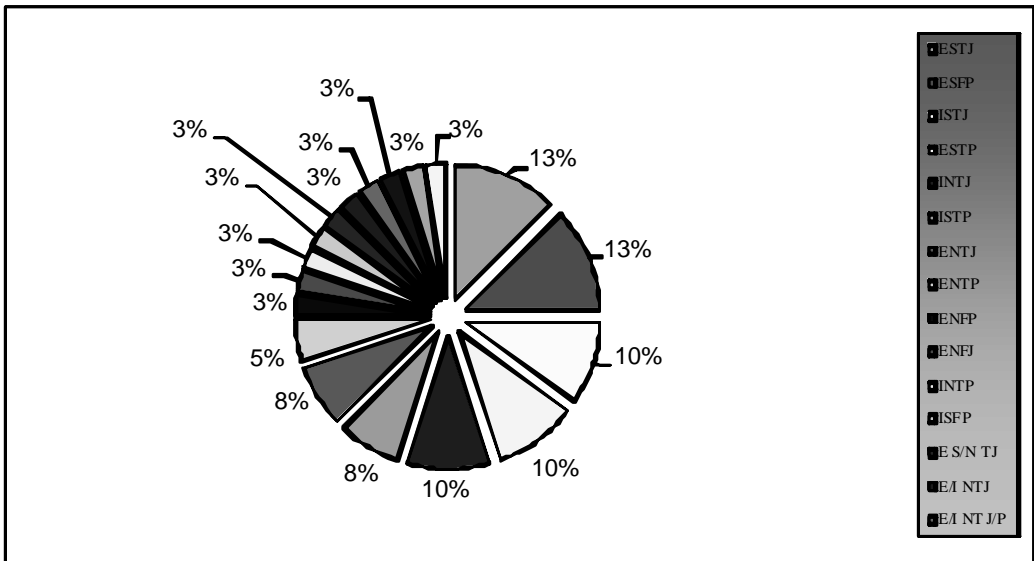
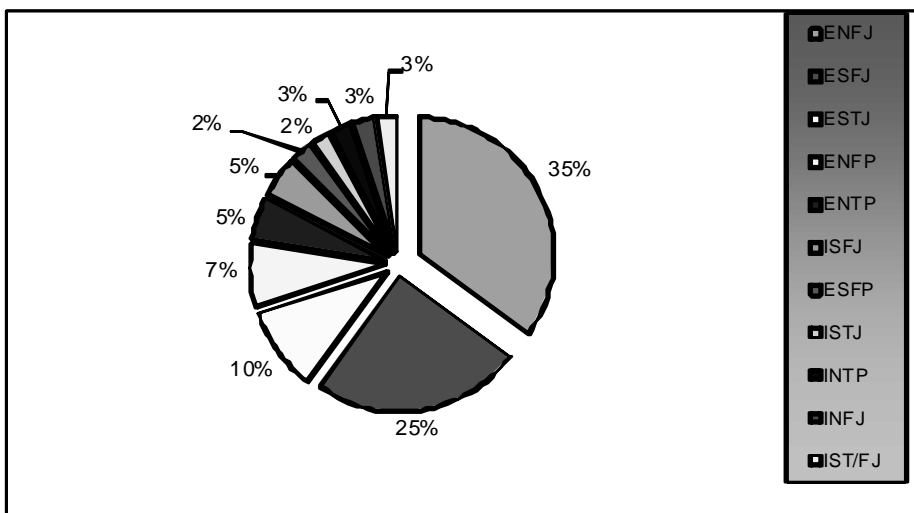
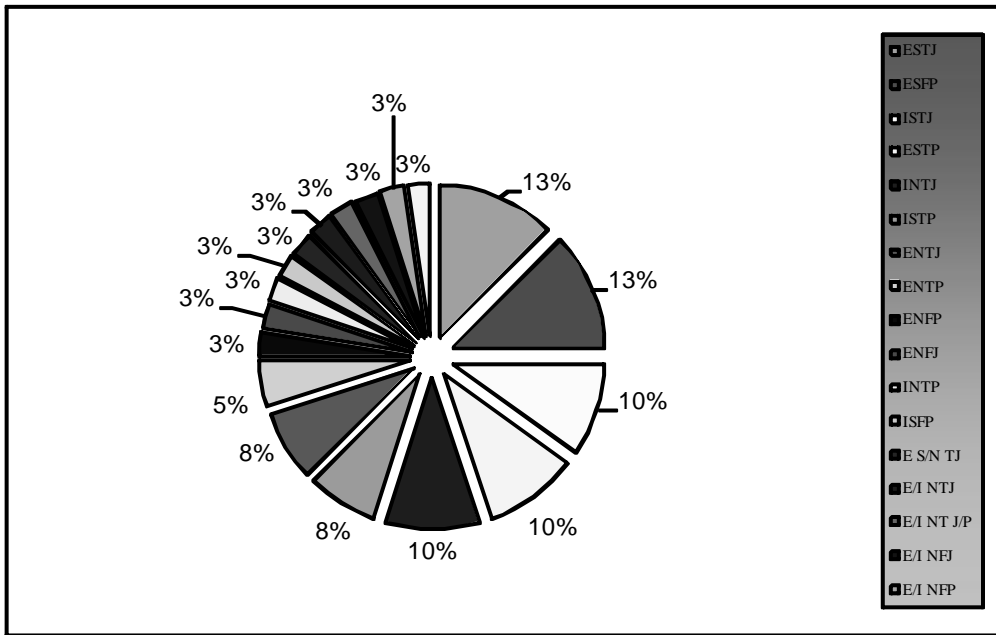


Figure 2: Distribution of personality types in political subjects



Note: E (extroversion); I (introversion); S (sensing); N (intuition); T (thinking); F (feeling); J (judging); P (perceiving)

Figure 3: Distribution of personality types in apolitical subjects



The first research hypothesis, which refers to the differences between the politically active persons and the other citizens, at the level of personality type, was partially confirmed. At the level of *personality type*, the statistical analysis showed *significant differences* between the persons with political involvement and those not having this orientation, as follows: Extroversion/Introversion ($t(78)=3,720 p=.00$); Thinking/Feeling ($t(78) = -3,075 p=.003$); Judging/Perceiving ($t(78) = 2,408 p=.018$). However, there were *no significant differences* concerning the preference for Sensing or Intuitive information ($t(78) = -.123 p=.902, p>.05$).

Regarding the personality type which characterizes political people, as compared to those who do not have such an orientation, we carried out a statistical analysis (presented in Figures 2 and 3). The most frequent personality type in the persons involved in politics is the Extrovert / Intuitive / Feeling / Judging (34%), followed by Extrovert / Sensing / Feeling / Judging

(28%), which confirms the differences identified at the level of each dimension.

Hypothesis 2 – *Persons who are politically engaged have a higher level of self-esteem compared with persons without engagement in politics.*

For the statistical analysis of this hypothesis we calculated the “t” Student test for independent samples, using SPSS 10.0. Also, we carried out a descriptive analysis of the data by calculating the average and the standard deviation in self-esteem, for both samples. These statistical indicators reveal a normal distribution of participants, in both samples.

Table 3: Average and standard deviation in self-esteem

Variable	Self-esteem
Political subjects N=40	a=30,55 st.dev.= 4,08
Apolitical subjects N=40	a=30,87 st.dev.=4,42

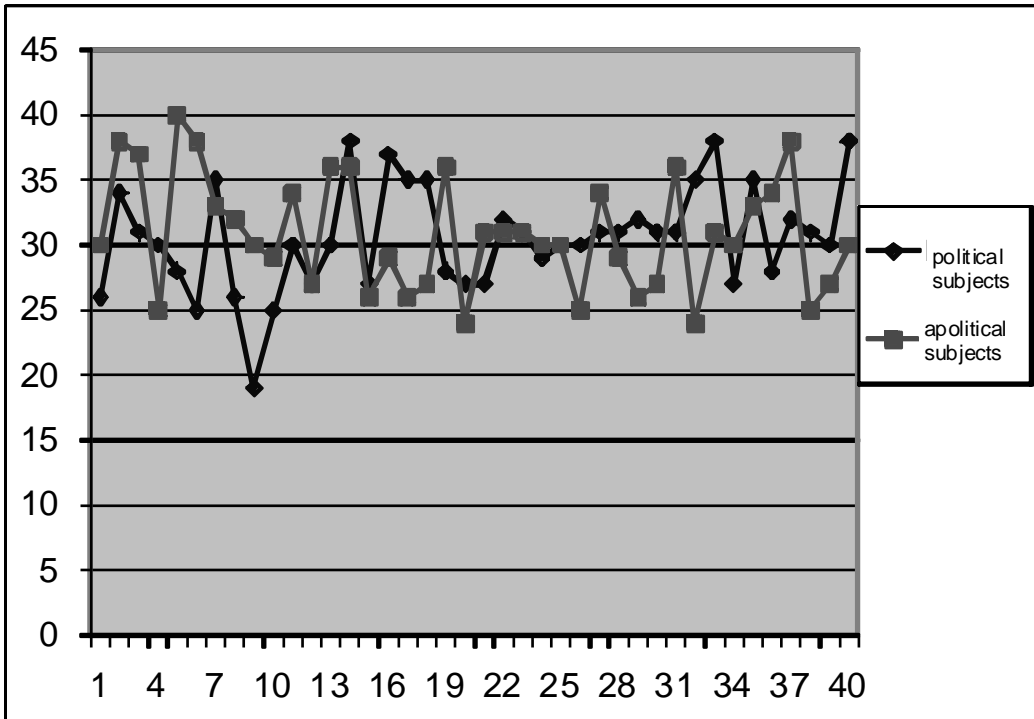
Table 4: Differences at the level of self-esteem between the two samples

Variable	Self-esteem
Student (t) test value	t(78) =-.342 p=.734, p>.05

This second hypothesis was refuted: we did not identify significant differences between the two groups at the level of self-esteem. Thus, contrary to expectations which suggested a higher level of self-esteem in those involved in political life, the “t” Student test for independent samples *did not show statistically significant differences* (t(78) =-.342, p=.734, p>.05). The

investigation of descriptive data showed a *high average level of self-esteem in both subject samples*.

Figure 4: Differences between the two samples (self-esteem)



2.5. Discussion

When testing the first hypothesis, the *extroversion* which predominates in politically engaged participants is justified by the activity they pursue. Their role is to be permanently informed on current matters in the social, economic and political life, which is sustained by the outward attitude specific of extroversion (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1969). These people's interpersonal relationships are multiple, with the most varied social categories. They seek interaction and focus their attention on the outer environment (McCrae and Costa, 1989).

Extroversion gives them the possibility to persuade and manipulate the others (Caldwell and Burger, 1997). They have communication and oratory skills, sustained by the outward oriented energy. Extroverts usually use inspirational appeal as an influence method (Cable and Judge, 2003). This method consists in raising the enthusiasm of others by appealing to their ideals or aspirations (Yukl and Falbe, 1990).

Opt and Loffredo (2003) focused in their research on the relationship between the Introversion/Extroversion dimension of personality and the perception of the individuals' communication skills. The authors discovered that extrovert individuals have a communication style superior to that of introverts, as they have more self-confidence and greater success on a social level. They are attracted by several activities, prefer a fast pace and become involved in various projects and activities. Also, extroversion is expressed by an "energetic approach to the social and material world and includes traits such as sociability, activity, assertiveness, and positive emotionality" (John and Srivastava, 1999). However, this orientation towards various activities, towards the width and not the depth, has a direct impact on social opinion and perception (Jung, 1994).

Norton and Pettegrew (1977) believed that the way an individual communicates determines the degree of attractiveness, the level of influence and persuasion the individual has. Having a positive image of one's own communication skills, as is the case of extroverts, can influence the others' perception and evaluation of the person in question. The authors state that in the case of politically involved people, this image of the Self correlates with citizen satisfaction when these two parties are interacting.

The statistical analysis has shown that politically engaged people take decisions by choosing the alternative which resonates with their emotional side and needs (Feeling Function). Other researches demonstrated a positive relationship between affectivity and self awareness, motivation and influence.

This last aspect, namely influence, is as important for the success of political discourse, for persuasion, as the emotionality (Barry, 2008).

A proponent of this idea, Barry (2008, p. 363) examines *the emotionalization* of politics: ‘the contemporary emotionalization of politics is characterized by reflexivity as much as by emotional expression. This concern with the need to acknowledge and reflect upon often complex feelings distinguishes contemporary ‘emotionalization’ from carnivalesque catharsis, on the one hand. On the other, this concern with reflecting upon feelings also distinguishes contemporary ‘emotionalization’ from the traditional ways in which politicians have invoked emotions to influence public opinion in the context of political appeals’.

In life, situations replace each other quickly, triggering just as many contrasting emotional states. Those who prefer a way of expressing themselves based on the Feeling function manifest a certain level of anxiety towards the audience (Opt and Loffredo, 2003), but the association with extroversion, which occurs in the politically involved people who were studied, boosts their apprehension and communication skills. Hence the excess criticism aimed at the others, the fundamental attribution error maintaining social stereotypes which are perceived as objective and totally justified (Gavreliuc, 2002).

Politically involved people characterized by a higher level of extroversion, who take emotion-based decisions, prefer to live in a far more organized and structured way (Judging Function). Therefore, the significant differences between this study’s subjects also appear concerning the Judging/Perceiving dimension.

Judging individuals find pleasure in taking decisions, and this is one of the activities specific to politically involved persons, as they take decisions for the others. Judging individuals enjoy moving quickly toward decisions and enjoy organizing, planning, and structuring. In the politically engaged

participants, the personality structure implies the need to define one's problems, to establish projects that would be carried out to the end.

It is interesting to note that there are no statistically significant differences at the level of the other personality dimension identified by Jung, namely Sensing/Intuition. The analysis of averages shows that subjects are equally preoccupied with both types of information on the basis of which they identify reality. Relating to reality through the Sensing function is connected to the fact that the past and the future are used as indexes of the present. The ambivalence of this Jungian function also highlights the need to know in advance what is happening, to anticipate and foresee any possibility. This attitude can be associated with resistance to any real situation containing uncontrollable factors (Kelly, 1955).

The picture of the personality of the politically involved participants' personality is completed by the combination of Jungian functions within the personality type. Relevant for the politically involved group of participants is the ENFJ (Extroversion Intuition Feeling Judging) formula that is associated with superior communication skills (Loffredo, Opt, and Harrington, 2008). These persons establish relationships with others easily, are persuasive and efficient in interpersonal relationships. Thus, this personality type manifest tact and diplomacy, they take pleasure in accumulating information, and express the need to manipulate and influence the others. At the same time, they face difficulties in taking criticism and refusal. They are oriented towards a political career; intuitive extroverts are usually political people and business leaders (Tieger and Barron-Tieger, 1998), results that are also confirmed in the present study.

A significant contribution in the description of politically involved participants is represented by the *Extrovert Sensing Feeling Judging Type*. Specific to this type is the fact that they are great comrades, they establish harmonious and friendly interpersonal relationship. They are well organized

and capable of remembering facts that they can use (Tieger and Barron-Tieger, 1998).

As Sensing Extroverts, subjects who get involved in politics work fiercely to reach their goals, and if it concerns personal interests, they are motivated to establish positive relationships with others and then strive to maintain them (Tieger and Barron-Tieger, 1998). In the sphere of political communication, there is a marked unwillingness to discuss the headings and change strategies (Zamfir, 2005). The activity pursued by this type of personality has to be characterized by clear organization, where hierarchy is known and authority respected, and where one finds pleasure in participating in the decision-making process. For the Sensing Extrovert it is important to be respected and appreciated. When testing the second hypothesis, the subjects of this study manifested a high level of self-appreciation, without any obvious causal mechanism and therefore inviting for different possible explanations.

The high level of self-esteem may be associated with an authentic self-appreciation (or a bias may occur in the self- appreciation) on the background of social desirability (Paulhus, 2002). The impression management strategies can be partly responsible for the high scores reported on the self-esteem measures, despite otherwise possibly lower levels. Scores can indicate the overall level, but they give us little information about where the individuals derive their self- appreciation from. Research has shown that most people tend to evaluate themselves more favorably than they evaluate others (Paulhus, 2002).

Several explanations can be derived from the results of the current study. First of all, self-esteem is a source of internal energy, which ensures psychological balance. Literature emphasized that high self-esteem has an important role for the health and well-being (Dubois and Flay, 2004). High self-esteem is also associated with happiness (Cheng and Furnham, 2004). Self-esteem leads to affect (Tesser, 2000) and, indeed, self-esteem is associated with

affect (Torrey, Mueser, McHugo, and Drake, 2000) and predicts affective responses to social comparisons (Wheeler, 2000). Values are more consistent among high self-esteem individuals than among low self-esteem individuals (Malka, 2005).

High self-esteem makes people more willing to speak up in groups and to criticize the group's approach (Baumeister et al., 2003), which is related to the tendency to become involved in politics. Some scholars have examined the motives and ambitions of politicians and found that many of them are self-confident and exceptionally well prepared to handle the stressful demands of public life (while others seek to compensate for unfulfilled personal needs). Self-esteem has been found to have significant influence on voting behavior, showing that the self-esteem of individuals strongly influences voting behavior and election outcomes (Gibson, 2010).

The "Other" is always a reference for self-appreciation; however the relationship is also influenced by the features of the context in which they exist (Kwan, John, Kenny, Bond, and Robins, 2004).

Thus, the self-esteem of the participants in this study, regardless of the sample group they belonged to, can have different sources.

Tafarodi and Swann (2001) argued for two dimensions of self-esteem: self-liking and self-competence. Self-liking refers to positive judgments of oneself based on how we perceive others' judgments of us through social interactions. As such, a major source of self-liking is social merit. An example is given by Gavreliuc (2002) who, following the success-stories promoted by the Romanian mass-media, shows that the best are not those who excel based on merit, but those who managed and gained a privileged position, based on the relational system. Early theorizing suggested that such in-group favoritism is stronger among people with low self-esteem than among those with high self-esteem (Ehrlich, 1973). There are opinions among specialists stating that this self-appreciation is equivalent to social and mental health (Boncu, 2002).

Self-competence refers to a sense of efficacy that grows out of how well we think that we perform compared to our desired standard. So, a major source of self-competence is performing. Boncu (2002) shows that these irrational beliefs regarding the positivity of personal traits are accompanied by the exaggerated wish to control the environment, which grants freedom to the individual, or at least the illusion of it. Beliefs in a high level of self-esteem and in the control of events breeds exaggerated optimism, as one overestimates the significance of positive events in life.

Some researches (Lupien, Seery and Almonte, 2010) found that self-esteem is associated with a number of defensive behaviors. Social studies on Romanian sample groups (Neculau, 2004) confirm an ego-centered construction, with positive projections at the level of the self. The role of these projections is to regain and conserve self-esteem.

Summing up, the desire to feel good about oneself is not the only self-related reason why participants reported high self –esteem, regardless of the involvement in political life or its absence. However, people would rather learn positive things about themselves than negative things (Sedikides, 1993). But, on the other hand, people are motivated to perceive themselves accurately and admit awareness of their undesirable characteristics because they have to cope with reality (Swann, Stein-Seroussi, and Giesler, 1992).

Conclusion

This research is a pilot study exploring the personality of people engaged in politics, as compared to people who have no such engagement. The research findings are consistent with various psychology theories. However, our research also revealed some paradoxes, which only complete the image of the studied persons. The study hypotheses have been partially confirmed. Thus, we identified significant differences between the two

samples at the personality type level, as well as at the level of three corresponding functions (Extroversion, Feeling, and Judging).

People engaged in politics proved to have a higher level of extroversion and manifested a predilection for organized life, where they can have control over the events and people around them (in other words they preferred the Judging function). On the other hand, rational, objective decisions were preferred by people having no engagement in political life, while political subjects are tempted to decide based on subjective criteria that belong to the emotional sphere (Thinking – Feeling Function).

This study does not reveal any significant differences between politically engaged participants and those without political engagement with respect to the type of information taken in from the external environment (Sensing - Intuition Function).

Based on this data, two personality types have emerged that are prevalent in politically engaged subjects. This finding is strengthened by the diversity of the personality type formula among the participants without political engagement. Therefore, it was revealed that politically involved persons are predominantly either the Extrovert Intuitive Feeling Judging type or Extrovert Sensing Feeling Judging type.

At the same time, the level of self-esteem was high in both samples. Based on this result and the results of other psychology research, we can assert that self-esteem is thus a perception rather than a reality. High self-esteem can be authentic or can have significant biases, while also playing a role either as an outcome or as a cause. This indicates the need to attend (in a future study) to the causal processes involved in self-esteem and about the impact of boosting self-esteem in different activities, including the political engagement.

One limitation of the current study is the local political engagement of the subjects, where political life is less interesting for citizens than it is on the

national stage. Another limitate is the small number of subjects in the two test samples.

The current pilot study will be improved and expanded by carrying out the research inquiry at the level of politically engaged people from several regions of the country. The relationship between the psychological characteristics of respondents and their actions in political life or political preferences will be also further explored in future research.

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