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PARTENARIAT ÉDUCATIF GRUNDTVIG 2009-2011

ATLAS OF PERSONAL IDENTITY

(These explanatory notes are associated with the presentation of the same title)

Identity is a set of criteria, definitions of a subject and an internal feeling. This sense of identity is composed of different feelings: a sense of unity, coherence, belonging, value, autonomy and trust, organised around a commitment to life.

The dimensions of identity are closely intertwined: individual (feeling of being special), group (sense of belonging to a group) and cultural (feeling of having a culture of belonging).

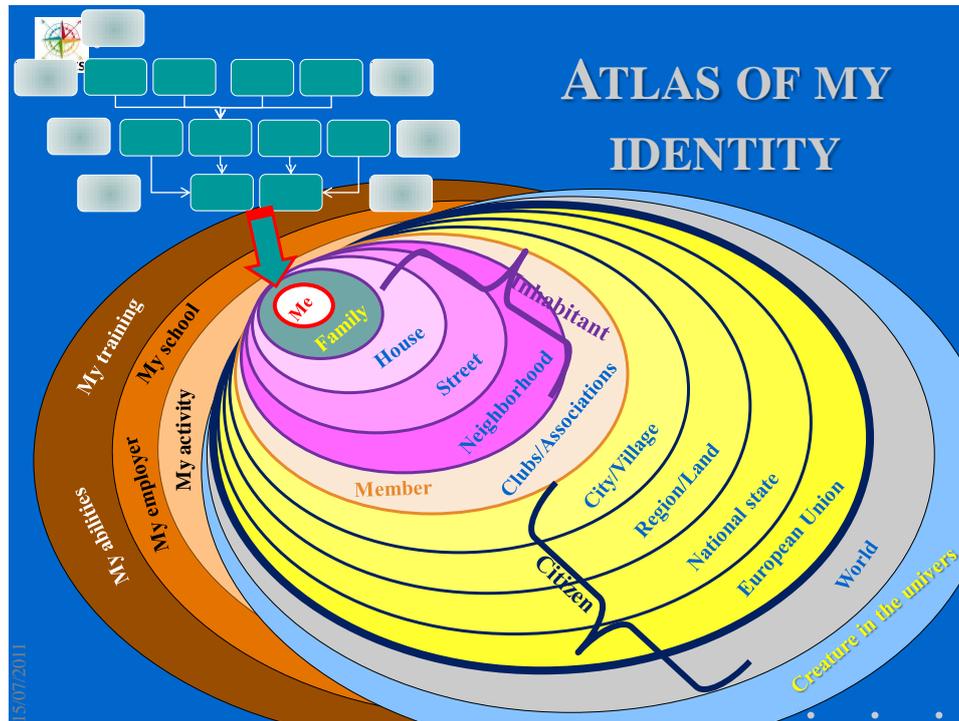
The child learns to recognize himself as a person through the reactions of adults. In fact, the identity is constructed through the links with the Other and through the difference defined by or against the Other, rather than through the links to oneself.

The consciousness of our own identity is the first component of our relation to the existence and to the world. It is the result of a complex process that closely connects the relation with oneself and the relation with the other, the individual and social life. It is also a dynamic phenomenon that evolves throughout life, marked by ruptures and crises.

Personal identity refers to the sense of individuality (*"I am me"*), the sense of uniqueness (*"I'm different from the others and I have such and such characteristics"*) and of continuity in space and time (*"I'm always the same person"*). Psychology shows that identity is constructed in a double movement of identification with the others and distinction from them.

The sense of identity is formed both through the perception of own body and through the early interactions with the environment.

The other is, at different stages of life, a mirror that everyone needs in order to recognize themselves.

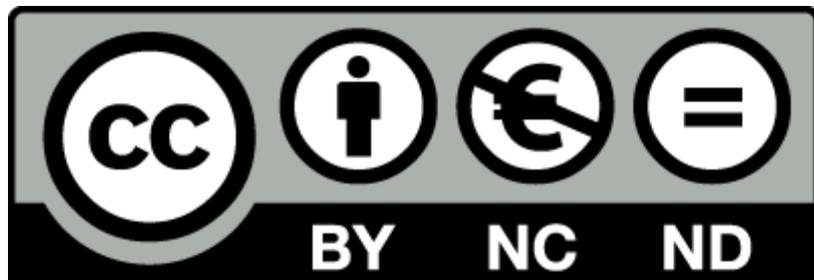


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