

Florentina HĂHĂIANU, *Explorarea competenței socio-emotionale în domeniul intelligence (Exploring socio-emotional competence in intelligence)*, Top Form Publishing House, 2016

Review by Silviu PETRE*

Emotional intelligence has become one of the most employed notion in public speech as well as in punditry. Often associated with the American psychologist Daniel Goleman, the notion itself found its way in a tortuous manner, its coming of age reflecting the very maturation of psychology from art to a well established science. Present people like to believe they can predict and measure someone's behavior from his or hers socio-emotional abilities.

Florentina Hăhăianu's inserts her contribution into this ungoing debate with a special focus on the profile of the future intelligence officer.

At first, the author reviews the preceding literature so as to make order through the jungle of semantics. The existing definitions and their subsequent criteria given are legion, often fuzzy as each author writing about the matter craves to trailblaze the discipline.

As such, one of the most pertinent definition for the social intelligence is considered to be: "the ability to get along with others and convince them to cooperate with you" (Karl Albrecht, page 26)

In a similar veneer, emotional intelligence (EI) is held to be "the ability to understand and order ones emotions" (according to Saloney and Mayer, page 27). Expanding on that, Reuven Bar-On, PhD at the University of tel Aviv sees emotional intelligence a "string of capabilities, competence and noncognitive skills which influence one's ability to succeed and adapt to the pressure of the environment." (page 27)

Aforementioned Daniel Goleman draws attention to their difference and that they should not be held to be synonymous. Pushing

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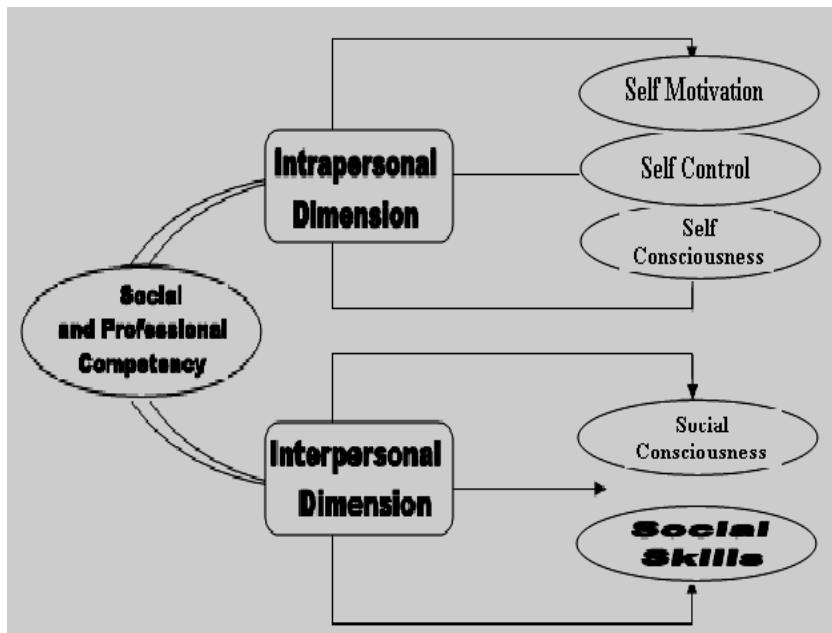
through such a rich literature, Hähäianu suggests that the two should be lumped together in a synthetic concept – one able to describe “the ability for reconnaissance and control of your own’s emotion as well as well of the others along with the adapting the behavior while relating to the others.” (p. 29)

The definitions themselves remain only half of the story unless we think further to instruments to evaluate those abilities or even more, to exhort them in the educational process. Here enter competencies.

In this regard, "social and professional competencies stand for efficiency in transactions which require affective skills, both with respect to one's person, as well as in intercourse with the others, both within familiar as well as unfamiliar environments." (p. 64)

Going from the periphery to the nutshell of the study, the author charts the whole array of emotional competencies required by an intelligence officer in his/her tasks, as one can notice just below (p. 81):

The Pentagonal Model of the Socio-Emotional Competencies



Author's graphic, (p. 81)

- **Self Consciousness** stands for: the capability towards self knowledge and also of the consequences of one's actions towards the others; self confidence and rightful selfevaluation.
- **Self Control** stands for: "handling emotional reactions accordingly to different situations and people." It bodes well with notions like: resilience, dutifulness, and adaptability.
- **Self Motivation** stands for the ability to "identify your own inner resources that might be tapped in and channeled towards success."
- **Social Consciousness** describes empathy.
- **Social skills** express: the ability to communicate efficiently along with other notions like assertiveness and team spirit. (pages 82-89)

Written from an individual-centric perspective, Florentina Hăhăianu's study strives to be a synthesis of previous literature about the profile of the nowadays intelligence officer. The publication of the book bodes well with present times considering that the rampant evolution of terrorist threat highlighted once again the importance of HUMINT as supplement to technical approaches – preferred for their more economic results. Last but not least, the effort to visualising the 'ideal silhouette' of an intelligence officer can be extremely useful for the whole array of security organisations (armies, police, intelligence agencies) in an age where all of them struggle with recruiting predicaments of various sorts and the best and the brightest among the graduates choose private sector as future career (Knight, 2016, Morrison, 2017, Weiss and Castro: 2019, Moore and Martinez, 2020).

References:

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