# opción

Revista de Antropología, Ciencias de la Comunicación y de la Información, Filosofía, Lingüística y Semiótica, Problemas del Desarrollo, la Ciencia y la Tecnología

Año 36, agosto 2020 Nº 92

Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales
ISSN 1012-1587/ ISSNe: 2477-9385
Depósito Legal pp 198402ZU45

Universidad del Zulia
Facultad Experimental de Ciencias
Departamento de Ciencias Humanas
Maracaibo - Venezuela

opción
Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales

ISSN 1012-1587/ ISSNe: 2477-9385
Depósito legal pp. 198402ZU45
Portada: Dulce y Eterna Espera
Artista: Rodrigo Pirela
Medidas: 80 x 100 cm
Técnica: Mixta
Año: 2008

Opción, Año 36, Regular No.92 (2020): 914-938
ISSN 1012-1587/ISSNe: 2477-9385

# Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure: factorial structrure in Ukrainian immigrants in western Europe

**Dolores Frias-Navarro**
Director of the Research Unit: "Diseño y Análisis de Psicología Aplicada", Universidad de Valencia. España
M.Dolores.Frias@uv.es

**Yanina Botvyn**
Universidad de Valencia, España
yaninabot@ukr.net

**Marcos Pascual-Soler**
ESIC–Business & Marketing School, España
marcos.pascual@esic.edu

**Jose Berrios-Riquelme**.
Departamento de Ciencias Sociales,
Universidad de Tarapacá. Iquique-Chile
jberrios@uta.cl

## Abstract

The objective of this study is to evaluate the factorial structure of the Mjultigroup Ethnic Identity Measure on Ukrainians immigrants in two countries of Occidental Europe. The factorial structure was put to test with a confirmatory factorial analysis and with the factorial invariance between the samples of both countries. The results indicate that the two- dimensional structure has a better adjustment than the one-dimensional, two dimensions have a good internal consistency and they are directly correlated. The factorial invariance between both countries has also been proved. It is concluded that the measure presents a two-dimension structure and suggestions for future investigations are proposed.

**Key words**: factorial invariance; psychometric properties; confirmatory factor analysis; internal consistency.

Recibido: 16-12-2019 •Aceptado: 03-02-2020

# Medida de Identidad Étnica Multigrupo: estructura factorial en inmigrantes ucranianos en Europa occidental

**Resumen**

El objetivo del presente estudio es evaluar la estructura factorial de la Medida de Identidad Étnica Multigrupo en inmigrantes ucranianos en dos países de Europa occidental. La estructura factorial fue puesta a prueba con un análisis factorial confirmatorio y con la invarianza factorial entre la muestra de ambos países. Los resultados indican que la estructura bidimensional tiene un mejor ajuste que la estructura unidimensional, las dos dimensiones tienen una buena consistencia interna y están directamente correlacionados. También se ha demostrado la invarianza factorial entre ambos países. Se concluye que la medida presenta una estructura factorial bidimensional y se realizan sugerencias para futuras investigaciones.

**Palabras claves:** invarianza factorial; propiedades psicométricas; análisis factorial confirmatorio; consistencia interna.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Modern migrations have reached such high levels that they moderate the social realities of the countries sending and receiving these flows, creating new needs for political regulation and the adaptation of both national citizens and foreigners to a multicultural environment. In Europe, according to Eurostat data (2016), 3.8 million people emigrated to one of the 28 member states of the European Union (EU-28) in 2014 and 1.6 million of them are estimated to be citizens of non-member countries of the EU. Regarding the number of immigrants, Germany had the greatest number in 2014 (884,900), followed by the United Kingdom (632,000), France (339,900), Spain (305,500), and Italy (277,600).

These numbers are not surprising, given that the migration in the old continent has been a constant because of the social and politic conflicts and wars that have developed in the past three decades. An example of this reality can be observed in the complex socio-political context that are lived until today by the countries that constituted the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which have led to the accelerated displacement of people in that area since the dissolution of the communist bloc (Djankov et al., 2016; Jaroszewicz & Kaźmierkiewicz, 2014). In this respect, Ukraine represents a clear example of this situation given that it possess a past filled by wars that have led to ethnical, territorial, politic and ideological conflicts (Leontiyeva, 2014; Sánchez, 2016).

These conflicts and tensions in Ukraine have affected in the conformation of an own identity by their citizens, since the annexation of this territory to Russia after the Bolshevik triumph different variables have been presented and have influenced in the cultural, politic, economic, military and demographic assimilation of the inhabitants of Ukraine (Cardone, 2014). This lack of national identity impacts on a social and political dynamic that divides the inhabitants of Ukraine in two factions, one linked to East and the other to West (Sánchez, 2016). The described situation became evident during the discussion of the integration of Ukraine to the European Union because it was affected by the different social protest of nationalists and pro-Russians that led the flight of the president Yanukovych and his posterior impeachment of the executive power in the year 2014. This political act had a social impact that resulted on the russian

intervention in the Autonomous Region of Crimea, based on the idea that the resident population possessed a strong and marked russian ethnic identification (Bermejo, 2015).

In this way, the social and political conflict that prevails in the country since the year 2014 has originated more than a million of displaced people (Sánchez, 2016). Additionally, Ukraine has suffered different social crisis in the past two decades leading to the 12% of its population to emigrate since the year 1993 (Villanueva, 2014). Considering all this facts, Ukraine has become in one of the countries with the most amount of migrant people inside of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (Castles et al., 2014).

### 1.1 Ukrainian Immigration in Italy and Spain

According to Eurostat data (2014), Ukrainian people currently represent the fifth largest group of migrants in the European Union (EU), after Turks, Moroccans, Chinese, and Indians, and it is estimated that about 635,851 Ukrainians resided in the EU in 2014. However, the estimation of the number of Ukrainian migrants in Europe is not very precise (a situation shared by other nationalities), given that there is no official registry in the receiving countries, and the categories of people who have emigrated are broad, including documented immigrants, undocumented immigrants, people in situations of asylum or refugees, among others.

Some of the main destinations chosen by Ukrainian immigrants in Europe are Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Spain (Bublikov, 2011). In the case of Germany and the Czech Republic, the Ukrainian migration would be determined by geographical accessibility. In the case of Spain and Italy, the reasons may be linked to the fact that they are located within the most attractive areas of the European continent for immigration (Bonifazi, 2008). Both Italy and Spain experienced a change in human mobility in the past four decades, going from being countries of emigrants to being societies that receive immigrants. Italy's transformation took place from the 1970s on, and in the first decade of the 21st century, the annual growth rate of the immigrant population in Italy was one of the highest in the European Union, along with Spain. The similarities of the new immigration experiences of these two countries during the second half of the 20th century can be explained by the Southern Europe immigration model or the Mediterranean immigration model (King, 2000).

The first Ukrainian immigrants for economic reasons arrived in Spain in the mid-1990s and there are no reliable statistical data for that period, however, researchers assume that their number increased with the 2000 and 2001 regularization processes (Hosnedlová & Stanek, 2014). At the end of the year 2000, Spanish municipalities registered 10,711 Ukrainians, increasing to 69,983 at the beginning of 2007, and 82,373 in 2010 (Stanek and Hosnedlová, 2012). According to Spanish National Institute of Statistics data (2015), on January 1st 2015, 84,127 Ukrainian migrants had registered in Spain. In Italy, in the year 2003,

14,802 Ukrainians were registered, increasing to 118,524 in 2007 (Fileva, 2011), 201,380 in 2012 (Migration Policy Centre, 2013), and 233,000 in 2014 (Jaroszewicz, 2015).

In this context of human mobility, many Ukrainian immigrants are probably experiencing an ethnic identity crisis, given it because of its recent political history that was reached by the ethnic politic crisis derived from post-Soviet era and in which a significant number of the diaspora had have to interrupt their contact with the country after the year 2014 (Lubsky et al., 2018). This is particularly worrying if one considers that ethnic identity is the most important characteristic of ethnic groups in modern societies (Maximova et al., 2018). In addition, it is pertinent to consider that the study of ethnic identity provides the basis for understanding the personal processes that could be involved in immigrants' well-being and adaptation in the receiving society (McMahon & Watts, 2002).

### 1.2 Ethnic Identity

Phinney and Ong (2007) point out that, ethnic identity is a personal, complex, dynamic, and multidimensional phenomenon linked to belonging to a particular culture and setting. It is a feeling of belonging to an ethnic group, but always linked to attitudes and behaviors associated with this feeling. Ethnic identity is defined by the self and others through contact and social relationships, because it is a psychological process that is constantly open to change and

renegotiation depending on the time, place, and social context (Phinney et al., 2001). Hence, the importance of studying ethnic identity is due to the fact that States do not elaborate integration mechanisms for the different ethnic groups that live in the same territory (Maximova et al., 2018).

There are different instruments to measure the ethnic identity, some of them are specific for a particular ethnic group (Crocetti et al., 2008). While other scales have been designed to measure the construct in different ethnic groups, as the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM) by Phinney (1992) which was developed to be used with ethno-cultural minorities in USA.

The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (Phinney, 1992) is frequently used to measure the processes underlying ethnic identity. The first version of the MEIM was theoretically configured with a structure of 14 items and three subscales. However, in the first validation of the MEIM instrument, a one-factor structure associated with ethnic identity was obtained (Phinney, 1992). Later, in the study by Roberts et al., (1999) with a broad sample of culturally diverse adolescents ($N$ = 5423), the negative items were eliminated, as they did not adequately fit in the model. A two-factor structure with 12 items was obtained: exploration or learning that leads to involvement with an ethnic group, and commitment, affirmation, or identification with a certain ethnic group. The two factors were positively correlated.

Most studies support the structure of two factors proposed by Roberts et al. (1999), with two distinct but correlated ethnic identity factors measured by the MEIM (Dandy et al., 2008). However, the items in each factor varied in some studies, whereas other studies obtained only one factor (Ponterotto et al., 2003; Worrel, 2000; Worrell et al., 2006). Regarding to the internal consistency of the instrument, the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure has been extensively used in a large variety of ethnical groups and in different cultural contexts, obtaining values higher than ,8 in their internal consistency according to the Cronbach alpha (Dandy et al., 2008; Pegg & Plybon, 2005; Roberts y cols., 1999).

Thereby, this study has three objectives related to evaluate the factorial structure of the ethnic identity measure in Ukrainian immigrants living in Italy and Spain.

The first objective is to analyze the construct validity of the ethnic identity dimensions (confirmatory factorial analysis), as measured by the MEIM instrument with a minority group of Ukrainian immigrants living in Italy and Spain.

The second objective is to test the factorial invariance between the scores of the Ukrainian immigrants living in Italy and the scores of those living in Spain on the MEIM ethnic identity questionnaire.

The third objective is to analyze the internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha) of the MEIM ethnic identity instrument with the sample of Ukrainian living in Italy and Spain.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Participants

Non-probabilistic convenience sampling was used to select the sample. The inclusion criteria were being a Ukrainian over the age of 18 and residing in Spain or Italy. The total sample of Ukrainians is composed of 263 participants, 198 living in Spain and 65 in Italy. Table 1 shows the sociodemographic characteristics of the samples of Ukrainian residents in Spain and Italy.

*Sample in Spain*. The sample of Ukrainian residents in Spain is composed of 198 participants; 65 men (32.8%), 130 women (65.7%), and three people who did not report their sex (1.5%). Mean age is 41.79 years (SD = 11.40; the distribution is bimodal with 45 and 46 years, with 10 participants), ages range from 18 to 69 years, and the median age is 42 years. The mean duration of residence in Spain is 10.65 years (SD = 4.08), the mode is 14 years for thirty-two participants, the range is from 1 to 32 years, and the median is 12 years of residence in Spain. Therefore, the mean age at which the Ukrainian residents migrated to Spain is 31.19 years (SD = 10.45), ranging from three to fifty eight years.

*Sample in Italy*. The sample of Ukrainian residents in Italy is composed of 65 participants, 20 men (30.8%), 44 women (67.7%), and one person who did not report their sex (1.5%). The mean age is 38.79 years (SD = 12.30), the mode is 25 years, with six participants, ages range from 19 to 67, and the median is 39 years. The mean duration of residence in Italy is 7.8 years (SD = 5.19), the mode is 3 years of residence for eight participants, ranging between 1 and 16 years, and the median is 8 years of residence in Italy. Therefore, the mean age at which the Ukrainian residents migrated to Italy is 30.91 years (SD = 9.36), with a range from 16 to 52 years.

Table I. Sociodemographic characteristics of the samples in Spain and Italy (percentages, frequencies, and p value of the difference between the proportions)

| Variables | | Spain | | Italy | | *p* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *n* | % | *n* | % | |
| Sex | Woman | 130 | 65.7 | 44 | 67.7 | .763 |
| | Man | 65 | 32.8 | 20 | 30.8 | |
| | No information | 3 | 1.5 | 1 | 1.5 | |
| Expectations of returning to his/her country in the next 5 years | Plans to return to his/her country | 49 | 25.7 | 39 | 60.0 | |
| | Will continue to live where s/he currently resides | 132 | 69.1 | 20 | 30.8 | <.001 |
| | Plans to go to another country | 10 | 5.2 | 6 | 9.2 | |
| Work | Works and has a contract | 115 | 58.7 | 34 | 54.0 | .415 |
| | Works, but without a contract | 45 | 23.0 | 15 | 23.8 | |
| | Does not work | 36 | 18.4 | 14 | 22.2 | |
| Application for nationality | Has applied for it | 24 | 12.2 | 8 | 12.5 | |
| | Has not applied for it | 172 | 87.8 | 56 | 87.5 | .883 |
| Participation in association of immigrants | Yes | 68 | 34.5 | 13 | 20.6 | |
| | No | 129 | 65.5 | 50 | 79.4 | .077 |
| Level of fluency in the language of the host country: “Speak” | Very low or low | 14 | 7.1 | 3 | 4.6 | |
| | Fair | 34 | 17.2 | 18 | 28.1 | |
| | Average | 48 | 24.2 | 15 | 23.4 | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Very good or pretty good | 102 | 51.5 | 28 | 43.8 | .238 |
| Level of fluency in the language of the host country: "Understand" | Very low or low | 4 | 2.1 | 2 | 3.2 | |
| | Fair | 28 | 14.6 | 13 | 20.6 | |
| | Average | 46 | 24.0 | 10 | 15.9 | |
| | Very good or pretty good | 114 | 59.4 | 38 | 60.3 | .901 |
| Level of fluency in the language of the host country: "Write" | Very low or low | 19 | 9.8 | 8 | 13.6 | |
| | Fair | 44 | 22.8 | 17 | 28.8 | |
| | Average | 47 | 24.4 | 14 | 23.7 | |
| | Very good or pretty good | 83 | 43.0 | 20 | 33.9 | .110 |
| Has attended an academy or school to learn the language of the country | Yes | 84 | 43.5 | 32 | 50.0 | |
| | No | 109 | 56.5 | 32 | 50.0 | .415 |

### 2.2 Instruments

*Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure* (MEIM) by Phinney (1992) (Phinney and Ong, 2007; Roberts, et al., 1999). The instrument has 12 items that the team adapted to the Ukrainian language and context. The scale has a two-factor structure: "ethnic identification or affirmation" and "ethnic exploration", on a *Likert*-type response format with four options ranging from *strongly disagree* (1) to *strongly agree* (4); all the items are written in a positive way, so that a higher score on ethnic identity indicates a strong and positive orientation toward the ethnic group of reference in our study. The first factor is "ethnic identification" and measures the feeling of affirmation and ties toward a certain ethnic group, as well as the feelings and attitudes manifested toward this group. This factor identifies the sociopolitical nature of identity. The response range can vary from 7 to 28. The second one is "ethnic exploration" and measures the process of searching for information, learning, and involvement in the ethnic group of

reference. This factor identifies the developmental aspect of identity; that is, the subject is aware of the importance and the role that ethnicity plays in his/her own life. Responses can range from 5 to 20.

### 3.3 Procedure

Information was collected individually in Italy and Spain. Participation was voluntarily and anonymous; 35.4% of the questionnaires were filled out in church, 28.5% in the participant's home, 26.2% on the street, and 9.9 in a language school in the country of residence. The sample was collected during the period from February to June of 2014.

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1 Descriptive analysis

Table 2 shows the descriptive statistics for the twelve ethnic identity items on the MEIM scale and for the total scores for the two factors of ethnic identification and ethnic exploration.

Table II. Descriptive analysis of the items and scores on the MEIM scale factors

| Item | Mean | SD | Median | Mode | Asymmetry | Kurtosis |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ethnic identification | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2.98 | 1.03 | 3 | 4 | -0.66 | -0.73 |
| 2 | 2.92 | 0.98 | 3 | 3 | -0.51 | -0.79 |
| 4 | 2.98 | 1.04 | 3 | 4 | -0.57 | -0.94 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3.25 | 0.85 | 3 | 4 | -1.05 | 0.54 |
| 10 | 3.32 | 0.84 | 4 | 4 | -1.14 | 0.67 |
| Total | 23.94 | 4.36 | 25 | 28 | -1.14 | 0.73 |
| Ethnic exploration | | | | | | |
| 3 | 3.60 | 0.70 | 4 | 4 | -1.99 | 4.05 |
| 5 | 3.46 | 0.73 | 4 | 4 | -1.31 | 1.40 |
| 6 | 3.07 | 1.02 | 3 | 4 | -0.72 | -0.73 |
| 7 | 3.40 | 0.79 | 4 | 4 | -1.28 | 1.08 |
| 9 | 3.42 | 0.85 | 4 | 4 | -1.33 | 0.80 |
| 11 | 3.35 | 0.87 | 4 | 4 | -1.23 | 0.66 |
| 12 | 3.57 | 0.66 | 4 | 4 | -1.59 | 2.54 |
| Total | 15.49 | 3.44 | 16 | 20 | -0.56 | -0.27 |

### 3.2 Confirmatory factorial analysis of the MEIM ethnic identity scale

The scale's dimensions were analyzed using confirmatory factorial analysis. Specifically, two models were tested to find out which one had the best fit. The first is a one-dimensional model, where it is assumed that the covariance of the twelve variables included in the scale is explained by only one factor, ethnic identity. In the second model, which is two-dimensional, two correlated factors are proposed (ethnic identification and ethnic exploration) to explain the items' covariance.

After verifying the non-fulfillment of the assumption of multivariate normality, it was decided to estimate the models based on the structure of the covariances, using the robust maximum likelihood procedure–RML (Bentler, 1995; Boomsma and Hoogland, 2001; Mels,

2006; Satorra and Bentler, 1994) with the EQS 6.2 software (Multivariate Software, 2012).

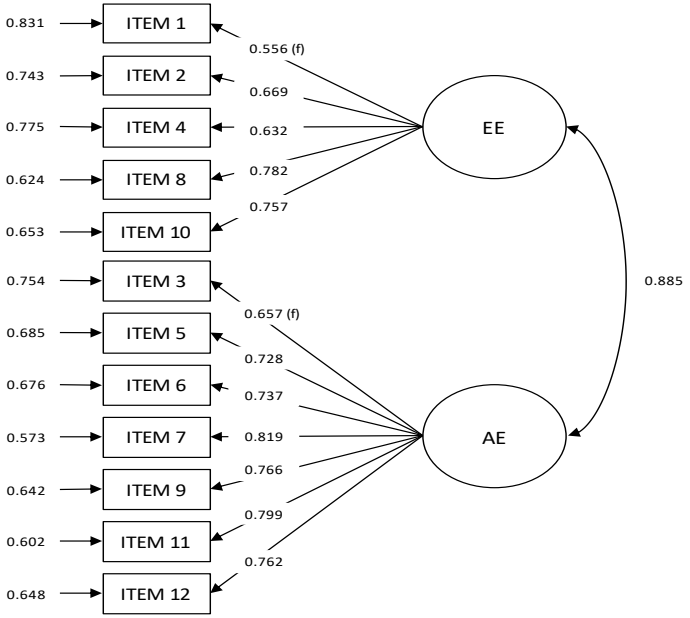
To compare the fit of the two models analyzed, the results obtained were considered under the Satorra-Bentler chi-squared test and the following indexes: Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA; Steiger, 1990), Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Normed Fit Index (NFI), and Non-Normed Fit Index (NNFI) (Bentler and Bonett 1980). On the CFI, NFI, and NNFI indexes, values equal to or above 0.95 will indicate a good fit of the model (Hu and Bentler, 1999). In the case of the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), values equal to or below 0.08 (Fan and Sivo, 2005) or 0.07 (Steiger, 2007) will indicate a good fit of the model evaluated.

As table 3 presents, the model with two correlated factors shows the best fit (RMSEA=0.068 [confidence interval at 90% between 0.050 and 0.085]; CFI=0.964; NFI=0.935; NNFI=0.956). Likewise, a test was performed of the difference between the model that presents a higher value on the chi-squared statistic (one factor) and the model that presents a lower value on this statistic (two correlated factors). The result confirms the superiority of the model with two correlated factors. Thus, the result indicates that the difference is statistically significant (S_B $X^2$=26.7; *gl*=1; $p < .001$). Figure represents the results of the estimation.

Table III. Goodness of fit indices for the MEIM ethnic identity scale

| | Model 1: one factor | Model 2: two correlated factors |
|---|---|---|
| S_B $X^2$ | 138.3037 | 111.5945 |
| gl | 54 | 53 |
| RMSEA | 0.081 | 0.068 |
| RMSEA – 90% confidence interval | 0.064 - 0.097) | 0.050 - 0.085 |
| CFI | 0.949 | 0.964 |
| NFI | 0.919 | 0.935 |
| NNFI | 0.938 | 0.956 |

Figure I. Results of the estimation. Completely standardized solution



### 3.3 Factorial invariance of the MEIM ethnic identity scale

The factorial invariance of the two-factor ethnic identity model is evaluated progressively in four steps (Byrne, 2008). The configural invariance is evaluated to test the model to fit with no restrictions between the Spanish and Italian samples. Weak or metric invariance is examined to find out whether the fit continues to be good when, in addition to the equivalence of the model between the groups, the factorial loadings are matched. The fulfillment of strong invariance is tested; to do so, the intercepts are restricted, maintaining the conditions imposed in the previous two steps. The progressive evaluation is completed by testing the fit produced on the level of strict invariance. In this latter case, a new condition is added, restricting the variances and co-variances of the errors.

The models were evaluated using multi-group confirmatory factorial analysis (MG-CFA), and they were estimated, based on the co-variances structure, with the maximum likelihood procedure (ML) using the LISREL 8.8 software (Jöreskog & Sörbom, 2006). CFI and NNFI values equal to or above 0.95 and RMSEA values equal to or below 0.08 would indicate a good fit of the model evaluated (Fan & Sivo, 2005) (Table 4).

Table IV. Goodness of fit indexes

| | S_B $X^2$ | *p* | RMSEA | NNFI | CFI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Configural invariance | 154.13 | 0.002 | 0.0598 (0.0365-0.0802) | 0.989 | 0.991 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Weak invariance | 204.51 | <0.001 | 0.0783 (0.0600-0.0961) | 0.982 | 0.983 |
| Strong invariance | 202.10 | <0.001 | 0.0804 (0.0620-0.0983) | 0.981 | 0.983 |
| Strict invariance | 250.52 | <0.001 | 0.0888 (0.0723-0.105) | 0.976 | 0.977 |

*Configural invariance*. By constraining the model with 2 dimensions and 12 observed variables, for both the Spanish and Italian samples, it can be observed that the scale presents the same configuration in both cases, with adequate fit indexes (CFI=0.991; NNFI=0.989, RMSEA=0.059). Thus, the results obtained make it possible to state that people in both samples use the same conceptual framework to respond to the items on the scale, showing configural invariance (Cheung & Rensvold, 2002; Vandenberg & Lance, 2000).

*Weak or metric invariance.* The analysis of the fit indices reveals that they reach adequate levels (CFI=0.983; NNFI=0.982, RMSEA=0.078). Therefore, it can be stated that the regression lines are equal in the two samples considered. Thus, the factorial loadings of the items in each latent variable are equal in both groups, and a change of a unit in an item produces, in both the Spanish and Italian samples, an equal change in the score of the associated factor.

Strong invariance. Focusing on the third step in the analysis, it is observed that the goodness of fit indexes continue to be adequate (CFI=0.983; NNFI=0.981, RMSEA=0.080). In light of the results, it

can be stated that both the factor loadings and the intercepts are equal in the two samples.

Strict invariance. The last step in the progressive analysis of the factorial invariance was to evaluate the strict invariance. In this case, not only are the factor loadings and intercepts equal in the two samples, but also the variances and co-variances of the errors (CFI=0.977; NNFI=0.976, RMSEA=0.088).

### 3.4 Internal consistency of the items on the MEIM scale

The results of the internal consistency analysis of the items on the MEIM ethnic identity scale reveal the following Cronbach's alpha values: 1) for the subscale of 'ethnic affirmation or identification', the values are .91 (95% *IC* .87, .94) for the sample from Italy and .88 (95% *IC* .85, .90) for the sample from Spain; and 2) for the 'ethnic exploration' subscale, the values are .76 for the sample from Italy (95 *IC* .64, .81) and .79 (95% *IC* .74, .83) for the sample from Spain. For the total sample, the Cronbach alpha values are .86 (95% *IC* .86, .91) for the dimension of ethnic affirmation or identification and .78 (95% *IC* .73, .82) for the ethnic exploration dimension. Removing an item did not increase the Cronbach's alpha in the analysis by countries or in the analysis of the total sample.

The correlation between the two dimensions of the MEIM ethnic identity instrument is positive and statistically significant,

$r$ = .72, $p$ < .001, 95% *IC* .65, .76, with a very high magnitude. Table 5 shows the results of the correlation analyses among the different variables.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the factorial structure and internal consistency of the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure in a sample of Ukrainian's immigrants resident in Spain and Italy. Our study contributes the first data to date on the factorial structure of the ethnic identity construct among Ukrainian immigrants in Western Europe

The results reveal that the two-dimensional structure (ethnic identification and ethnic exploration) has a better fit than the one-dimensional structure. Moreover, the two dimensions have adequate levels of internal consistency, measured with Cronbach's alpha. The two factors that make up the MEIM instrument are highly and directly correlated. In addition, the factorial invariance between the ethnic identity scores of the Ukrainians living in Italy and Spain has been shown.

The results allowed to initiate the research in an area where the availability of valid instruments to measure the ethnic identity it is fundamental. For example, research has shown that the feeling of belonging to an ethnic group involves the development of a positive

process related to psychological adjustment and satisfaction with life (Abubakar et al., 2014; Dandy et al., 2008). In the same way, in a context where immigrants have been living in a new country for an average of ten years, ethnicity is a type of social identity that structures a social classification and categorization process (Jenkins, 1994). Thus, to explain the phenomenon of ethnic identification, in the future it will be necessary to analyze the interrelationship of the different social processes involved in its construction and consider variables that could be integrated for mediation or moderation analysis and see the true scope of ethnic identity.

Regarding our study's limitations, it is important to take into account that it was used a convenience sample that participated voluntarily. Selecting samples of immigrants is a difficult task because there is no type of census, and contact must be made through their meeting places. Our study should be replicated with Ukrainian immigrants in other countries of residence.

In summary, as Phinney et al. (2001) point out, ethnic identity is a psychological process that is constantly open to change through contact and social relations with others. Furthermore, its study is important because it is a basic intervention area, given that it accompanies the personal well-being of immigrants. Thus, having valid and reliable instruments is a requirement for addressing the psychological processes underlying the construct of ethnic identity. Our results support the two-dimensional structure of the MEIM and

the internal consistency of the items in its two dimensions in Ukrainian immigrants living in two western European countries.

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**UNIVERSIDAD DEL ZULIA**

opción
Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales

Año 36, N° 92 (2020)

Esta revista fue editada en formato digital por el personal de la Oficina de Publicaciones Científicas de la Facultad Experimental de Ciencias, Universidad del Zulia.
Maracaibo - Venezuela

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