***Knowledge as Power (PANELIST: Dr. Rodica Stefanescu, Romania)***

**What is meant by the idea that knowledge is power?**

**What are the implications of knowledge as power for individuals, governments, science and society?**

***What is the role of education in the development and distribution of social power?***

***What is the implication of knowledge power in the role of education in society?***

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*Thank you for the privilege of sharing few of my reflections and research on the subject in discussion, to you.*

*I would relate to and develop on few of the very many so valuable aspects (of knowledge as power – through scientists, politicians and governance) already presented here. I will focus only on a mechanism:*

**Why and how EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL to the social power based on knowledge power?!**

It begins with considering knowledge as a pool of information, values, skills, norms, attitudes, mentality and behavior. The mean to detain, maintain, transmit, enrich and share knowledge is the education. It starts from birth and goes through the *long-life continuous evolving* – be it of an individual and/ or of a community. Thus, it depends on a *responsible and accountable education* what kind of individuals or *characters and professionals* a society is to be constituted of, and what kind of performing its *rulers* shall have. So, basically, it is the education to be the engine of the humankind well-being and of its future becoming. Furthermore, it is through education that the knowledge is gained to provide individuals, as well as within the society, its power. This is, in fact to say that social power, beyond the types and strength of relations, meaning *interactions*, it is, especially nowadays, about a knowledge based society. Such societies are made-up of educated individuals, committed to improve themselves, as to further share and disseminate knowledge and contribute to the improvement of human conditions. And, both at the level of such individuals and societies it is about *a continuously interactive learning process*.

The superior level at which an educational system may, not only empower individuals with top, up-to-date knowledge, but also to form professionals and shape personalities, is at the universities. As well, it also is the academia environment at which it further is developed the scientific patrimony of the humankind. Therefore, it mostly is about the *alumni* who, pending on how powered with *proper knowledge* shall then influence the society’s status of power and its evolution prospects – based on that knowledge *application*, in practice. At the same time, it is at this exercising in practice of their knowledge power that alumni may also feed-back and sustain both the society and their mother-university with *new resources* (informational, financial, human, material and technological). And thus, such alumni shall not only empower the university to *best respond to contemporary challenges and to the society’s real needs*, but also the society – per se, as to further invest in education for a continuous evolving of the humankind - *towards a sustainable development*.

So, what I basically wanted to stress-out it is about ***this spiral of the humanity’s continuous evolving*** which stands on, as well as being the expression of, *the interconnectivity between the knowledge power and the social one*. It starts from the knowledge pool, that, through education (as a mean and channel to make best use of it), empowers individuals to properly making-up for the society’s settings, and to appropriately running it. Thus, it is so the actual making-up for the social power too. Then, at this *in action level*, it goes with creating new knowledge. This, then, shall support and feed an enriched *education power* for providing much and more knowledgeable people and, thus stronger knowledgeably aware and empowered society – to effectively go towards its goals and continuously determine its becoming and further evolving. And, ...so on, where (aware, conscientiously responsible and accountable) **education is ...the key!** It stays to be the...engine of knowledge power, along with all associated responsibilities for and leadership of the social power!

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