

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

7TH EDITION OF THE EIR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

*EU's Reform and the Next Multiannual Perspective.
New Priorities, New Objectives?
Challenges for Central and Eastern European Countries*

7 DECEMBER 2016 - BUCHAREST

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EU's Reform and the Next Multiannual Perspective. New Priorities, New Objectives?

Challenges for Central and Eastern European Countries

Annual Conference and 7th Edition of the EIR Excellence Awards

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and welcome coffee

9:00 – 10:15 **EU's Reform and the Next Multiannual Perspective. New Priorities, New Objectives?
A Strategic View from Central and Eastern European Countries.**

Leonard Orban, Presidential Advisor for European Affairs, Romanian Presidential Administration, *former* European Commissioner

Cristian Bădescu, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

Marcin Wilczek, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland in Romania on behalf of the Polish Presidency of Visegrad Group

Jan Gabor, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic in Romania on behalf of the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council

Takács Szabolcs, Secretary of State for EU Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Hungary

Moderator: Gabriela Drăgan, PhD Prof., Director General, European Institute of Romania

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:15 **Interim Evaluation and Challenges for the Future Financial Perspective.
Romania's Perspective.**

Keynote speaker:

Daniel Dăianu, Member of the HLGOR, Member of the Romanian Academy, Member of the Board of the National Bank of Romania and *former* Finance Minister
A Union under siege: are national budgets and the EU budget fit to cope with major challenges?

Comments:

Mihaela Vrabete, Secretary of State, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania

Daniela Giurcă, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Romania

Oana Popescu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, Romania

Valentin Lazea, Chief economist, National Bank of Romania

Bianca Toma, Director of programs, Romanian Center of European Policies

Moderator: Ovidiu Nahoi, Journalist, RFI Romania

AGENDA

12:15 – 12:30 Coffee Break

12:30 – 13:30 **Interim Evaluation and Challenges for the Future Financial Perspective. Visegrad Countries' Perspective**

Małgorzata Kałużyńska, Director, EU Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Michal Částek, Head of EU Budget Unit, Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic

Štefan Jankovič, Head of EU Economic Policies Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Dávid Mezei, Deputy State Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development and Strategic Affairs, Hungary

Moderator: **Alina Bârgăoanu**, PhD Prof., President of the Administration Board, European Institute of Romania

13:30 – 14:30 **EIR Excellence Awards, the seventh edition, for the Promotion of European Spirit and European Values**

Speeches

Ligia Deca, State Counsellor, Education and Research Department, Presidential Administration

Sorin Costreie, Secretary of State, Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research

Iulia Matei, Director General, EU Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Alina Bârgăoanu, PhD Prof., President of the Administration Board, European Institute of Romania

Gabriela Drăgan, PhD Prof., Director General, European Institute of Romania

Excellence Awards:

The Directorate General for Primary and Secondary Education within the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research for the promotion of the European spirit and values through the Competition "European School".

Schools and high schools with outstanding results in the "European School" Competition: Center for Inclusive Education, School no.1 (Oradea), Buzău Economic College (Buzău), Economic College "Ion Ghica" (Târgoviște), School "Andrei Șaguna" (Deva), National College "Mihai Eminescu" (Baia Mare), National College "Octavian Goga" (Sibiu), High School "Ștefan Procopiu" (Vaslui).

14:30 – 15:30 Lunch

EU'S NEXT MULTIANNUAL PERSPECTIVE. NEW PRIORITIES, NEW OBJECTIVES

A. Theoretical and legal framework of the MFF

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) aims to set the financial terms of the Union's political priorities over a period of at least 5 years. **The framework does not count as a budget**, but is rather an instrument for budgetary discipline, meaning that EU spending is done in a predictable manner and agreed limits are being respected.

The idea of developing a multiannual financial framework goes back in the 80'¹, when the reform of the European Community's budget gained momentum. Due to the accession of Spain, Portugal and Greece, the budget of the Community doubled over a period of six years, but the Common Agricultural Policy was becoming more and more expensive, cornering the total budget. Added to this were also the implications of having an elected European Parliament, after 1979. Given the fact that its financial role was mostly a modest one (to adopt or reject the overall budget after the Commission's proposals and the decisions taken by the Council of the European Union), the MPs strived to gain more influence in the process. By doing so, they started different polemics over the spending and caused delays in the budget's adoption, in the end.

In 1987, Jacques Delors started the reform process, by issuing a communication from the Commission (Delors I Package) that was later followed by another communication (Delors II Package). *Budgetary discipline, ladies and gentlemen, will remain a pipe-dream until the European Parliament is involved from the outset of the procedure and until the Council stops taking mutually contradictory decisions*, was saying Delors in an address delivered in 1987².

The first package represented a political compromise that held benefices for everyone: additional aid for Ireland and the Mediterranean countries, the rebate for the UK, higher overall levels of spending for the countries committed to develop EC policies in new areas and a beginning of a reform in terms of agricultural policy³. The second package carried out financial perspectives for a period of seven years instead of five (as the previous one) considering the economic challenges the Community was facing at that time. As it was expected, the previous objectives were extended, alongside with the signing of the Treaty on European Union which meant: curbing of agricultural expenditure, establishment of a Cohesion Fund for the less prosperous countries of the Community, and the achievement of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)⁴.

Later on, the legal provisions regarding the multiannual financial framework were enclosed in the Article 312 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which refers to the minimum period of time, and the rules that need to be respected by the Commission, the Parliament and the Council when adopting a new MFF.

¹ The financial framework of 2000-06 (Agenda 2000), available online at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/ALL/?uri=URISERV:l34002>, accessed on 9th of November 2016.

² Address given by Jacques Delors to the European Parliament (18 February 1987), available online at: http://www.cvce.eu/en/obj/address_given_by_jacques_delors_to_the_european_parliament_18_february_1987-en-5a7c0454-fa33-49c4-a62e-0c2fc3b1a4af.html, accessed on 9th of November 2016.

³ Oudenaren Van John, *Uniting Europe: An Introduction to the European Union*, 2005, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, United States of America. p. 112.

⁴ Reform of the Community budget: The Delors Packages, available online at: <http://www.cvce.eu/en/recherche/unit-content/-/unit/02bb76df-d066-4c08-a58a-d4686a3e68ff/a58194ee-132e-44a4-9a73-2c760ce9010b>, accessed on 9th of November 2016.

The multiannual financial framework shall ensure that Union expenditure develops in an orderly manner and within the limits of its own resources. It shall be established for a period of at least five years. The annual budget of the Union shall comply with the multiannual financial framework. [...]

The financial framework shall determine the amounts of the annual ceilings on commitment appropriations by category of expenditure and of the annual ceiling on payment appropriations. The categories of expenditure, limited in number, shall correspond to the Union's major sectors of activity. The financial framework shall lay down any other provisions required for the annual budgetary procedure to run smoothly.

Where no Council regulation determining a new financial framework has been adopted by the end of the previous financial framework, the ceilings and other provisions corresponding to the last year of that framework shall be extended until such time as that act is adopted.

[Article 312, The Multiannual Financial Framework (Chapter 2), The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union]

The multiannual financial frameworks set until now covered periods varying of 5 or 7 years⁵:

- 1. 1988 – 1992 (Delors Package I)** - aimed at establishing the Internal Market and consolidating the multi annual research and development framework programme;
- 2. 1993 – 1999 (Delors Package II)** - focused on social and cohesion policy and preparing the introduction of the euro;
- 3. 2000 – 2006 (Agenda 2000)** - paid attention to the enlargement of the European Union;
- 4. 2007-2013 (Building our common future)** - gave priority to sustainable growth and competitiveness, to create more jobs;
- 5. 2014-2020 (A budget for 2020 – investing in the future of Europe)** - set new programmes that cover Europe's political priorities: research and innovation, connecting the transport, energy and IT infrastructure of all Member States, education, job opportunities for youth and competitiveness of Europe's businesses.

B. The current Multiannual Financial Framework (2014 – 2020)

The steps taken for adopting the current multiannual financial framework, 2014-2020, required three distinct moments and involved three of the main institutions of the European Union: the European Commission, the Council of the European Union (Council) and the European Parliament.

- 1. The Commission proposal** for 2014-2020 was advanced on July 6, 2012 (aimed at raising the ceiling for commitment appropriations at EUR 1033 billion - 1.08% of the EU GNI and that for payment appropriations at EUR 988 billion, meaning 1.03% of EU GNI);
2. Afterwards, the Presidents of Commission, Parliament and Council reached a **political agreement** on the new MFF on June 27, 2013 (the agreement was reducing the overall ceiling for the commitment appropriations at EUR 960 billion - 1.00% of EU GNI and at EUR 908 billion for the payment appropriations, meaning 0.95% of EU GNI).

⁵ Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF): Questions and answers, available online at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-11-468_en.htm, accessed on 9th of November 2016.

3. Based on the political agreement approved by the three institutions, a **draft regulation** was prepared on the MFF 2014-2020. The Parliament gave its consent to the draft regulation on 19 November 2013 and the Council adopted the Regulation on the MFF 2014-2020 (**Regulation no. 1311/2013 of the Council**⁶) on December 2, 2013.

The political priorities translated afterwards into financial objectives and the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 was divided into six categories of expenses corresponding to different areas of EU activities:

1. **Smart and Inclusive Growth (Competitiveness for growth and jobs and Economic, social and territorial cohesion)** - covering research and innovation, education and training, trans-European networks in energy, transport and telecommunications, social policy, development of enterprises; and, the regional policy which aims to foster economic, social and territorial cohesion;
2. **Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources:** including the common agricultural policy, common fisheries policy, rural development and environmental measures.
3. **Security and citizenship:** referring to justice and home affairs, border protection, immigration and asylum policy, public health, consumer protection, culture, youth, information and dialogue with citizens.
4. **Global Europe:** covering all external action (*foreign policy*) by the EU such as development assistance or humanitarian aid except for the European Development Fund (EDF);
5. **Administration:** referring to the administrative expenditure of all the European institutions, pensions and European Schools.
6. **Compensations:** addressing the payments designed to ensure that Croatia, who joined the EU in July 2013, does not contribute more to the EU budget than it benefits from it in the first year following its accession.

C. Mid-term evaluation of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework

The Commission presented a Communication on the mid-term evaluation of the MFF 2014-2020, accompanied by a legislative proposal to revise the regulation on the MFF, on September 14, 2016. The document mentions that "***mid-term evaluation is characterized by intensive efforts to promote economic recovery and to respond to the refugee crisis and security threats. Alongside with increasing the commitment appropriations proposed in the draft budget for 2017, especially for migration, as well as additional allocations resulting from the technical adjustment package for cohesion policy, the financial envelope for the mid-term proposes further EU funds worth about 13 billion during 2017-2020 for jobs and growth, migration and security. The Evaluation proposes to amend the Regulation on the MFF to further increase the capacity of the flexibility instrument and the emergency aid reserve and the elimination of a series of restrictions limiting the effectiveness of tools allowing to reuse margins remaining available from previous financial years.***"

⁶ COUNCIL REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020, available online at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R1311&from=EN>, accessed on 9th of November 2016.

⁷ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Mid-term review/revision of the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 An EU budget focused on results, available online at: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/lib/COM-2016-603/COM-2016-603_en.pdf, accessed on 10th of November.

Connecting the Communication with the press release⁸ that appeared in the same day, two priorities caught the public's eye - investments and migration. The objectives were set as it follows:

- **€2.4 billion were allocated to highly performing programmes** such as the extended European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the Youth Employment Initiative, the programme for research and innovation "Horizon 2020", the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME), Erasmus as well as the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). This also includes €50 million for WiFi4EU, aiming at helping European communities offer free WiFi hotspots to any citizen, leading to a total envelope of €120 million.
- **€2.5 billion were allocated to support the work in the areas of migration, security and external border control**, including the setting up of the European Border and Coast Guard, the EU Agency for Asylum, and the reform of the Common European Asylum System.
- **€1.4 billion was allocated for migration partnerships, for macroeconomic financial assistance, for external lending to stabilise countries in the neighbourhood and for the European Fund for Sustainable Development**, under the "External Investment Plan".

The results of this decision comprised in a financial package of a total of almost €13 billion, meaning the increases in the draft budget for 2017 plus the technical adjustment of cohesion envelopes. However, the Member States will not be asked to pay more than what they have already committed under MFF 2014-2020. The money will come from some of the reserves of the budget, like unallocated margins and special instruments⁹.

Given the fact that several European political parties¹⁰ sought to connect the mid-term review of the MFF and the 2017 EU budget, there is the need to emphasise the momentum of November 17, 2016 when the Council and European Parliament reached agreement on the 2017 EU budget. At that moment, Ivan Lesay, state secretary for finance of Slovakia and President of the Council affirmed: " *The strength of the 2017 EU budget lies in its focus on priority measures such as addressing migration, including by tackling its root causes, and encouraging investment as a way to help stimulate growth and create jobs. This maximises the budget's impact to the benefit of EU taxpayers, European citizens and companies. And it respects member states' continued efforts to consolidate their public finance*".

Also, some of **the European political parties issued various position papers and press-releases to present their priorities both in terms of the review of the Multiannual Financial Framework**, but also concerning the post-2020 budgetary period (Annex 1 - *The views of the main European political parties concerning the MFF*).

The topic of the next Multiannual Financial Framework represented an **important point of interest during the last two presidencies of the Council of the European Union**, as well. The Netherlands and Slovakia hosted several high-level debates in order to discuss the future of the next financial framework and the main ideas brought to the public's attention were listed in the Annex 2 - *Events related to the next MFF organised during the Dutch and Slovak Presidency of the European Union*.



⁸ State of the Union 2016: EU budget review further focuses budget on priorities, ensures more flexibility and less red tape, Strasbourg, 14 September 2016, available online at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2999_en.htm, accessed on 9th of November 2016.

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/index_en.cfm.

¹⁰ Parliament clashes with Council on EU's 2017 budget and MFF mid-term revision, available online at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161025IPR48607/parliament-clashes-with-council-on-eu%E2%80%99s-2017-budget-and-mff-mid-term-revision>, accessed on 26th of November 2016.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

D. Positions expressed by the Member States on the future of MFF (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic and Romania)

Country	Position
<p>Czech Republic¹¹</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Czech Republic supports that the expenditure side of the future MFF should focus primarily on policies enhancing the EU's competitiveness, its economic growth and convergence as well as security. • The 7-year period of the MFF should be preserved as it ensures an appropriate amount of time for the implementation of the EU multiannual programmes. • Regarding the financing of the EU budget, the Czech Republic is convinced that the future system of the EU own resources should be based on the principles of simplicity, transparency and fairness. • The system of EU budget flexibility should be significantly consolidated for the post 2020 period in order to ensure a smooth and fast mobilization of funds for the financing of unexpected events. • The Czech Republic has not approved its official position on the post 2020 Multiannual financial framework yet and the above-mentioned priorities represent our preliminary views and may be therefore subject to change.
<p>Hungary¹²</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Hungary, the main objective for the future of the MFF is to ensure that the current role of cohesion policy and common agricultural policy is maintained. • The traditional and Treaty-based policy instruments fit well into the concept of European Added Value and continue to be relevant and justified after 2020 as well. The European Added Value concept should support the realization of the EU's long term strategic goals and provide new impetus to the global competitiveness of EU. • Cohesion policy largely contributes to the economic performance of the less developed Member States which is – through the increasing demand – the engine of the economic growth in the net contributor countries as well. This proves that cohesion policy is an important and effective tool to boost the competitiveness of the EU as a whole. • Cohesion policy went through a huge reform establishing the current programming period, the ex-ante conditionalities and the macro conditionality created a stronger linkage between the structural and investment funds and economic governance. The discussion on the future of cohesion policy should focus first on the evaluation of these reforms rather than initiate new ones. Considering the common agricultural policy, the strong two pillar structure should be maintained and new priorities should only be introduced with proper additional resources. • It is clear that the EU is in a very different position right now compared to the environment of the agreement of the previous MFF. However, these current challenges can't overshadow the EU's long term strategic goals for enhancing global competitiveness and boosting economic growth.


¹¹ Position transmitted by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bucharest, November 2016.

¹² Position transmitted by the Embassy of Hungary in Romania, November 2016.

<p>Poland¹³</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Poland has not yet adopted its formal position on the next MFF, so the remarks below should be regarded as preliminary. Poland sees the need to tackle newly emerging challenges such as security and migration in the next financial perspective, but believes this should be financed on top of current expenditures, not instead of them. Cohesion policy is indispensable in tackling regional disparities and supporting long-term public investments, while the reformed Common Agricultural Policy prevents a harmful race in agricultural subsidies and allows the EU to deliver on its environmental and climate objectives.</i> • <i>The Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy, apart from Treaty objectives, realize as well goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy. These are EU wide challenges. Similarly, after 2020 the EU should help its members to achieve UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and agreed EU climate policy objectives. The EU should avoid ideological discussion on modes of delivery - shared vs. centrally managed funds, but decide which one is the most effective in a given case to attain common objectives. There should be regulatory playing field between those modes.</i> • <i>The next MFF should also strike the right balance between the growing need for flexibility and necessary predictability, as investments must be carefully planned and well implemented.</i>
<p>Slovak Republic¹⁴</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We appreciate the current Commission's efforts to focus more on the results and impact of the EU budget expenditure, their added value and on delivery of benefits for the citizens across the European Union. We expect these efforts will also be reflected in the Commission's proposal for the post 2020 MFF.</i> • <i>In our view the next Multiannual Financial Framework should be based on a balanced approach ensuring sufficient funding of the European policies, ability to respond to new challenges, flexibility and predictability.</i> • <i>When it comes to the EU's spending priorities, our focus in discussions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework will be particularly on the scope and role of the Cohesion Policy – as a key modern investment tool of the EU – and on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.</i> • <i>Finding a new balance between the financing of growth and jobs on the one hand, and the new challenges on the other, is inevitable. In the context of the current migration crisis, we cannot underestimate the importance of migration policy, security and external policies. However, we should avoid the other extreme – directing most resources to these new challenges and losing sight of the long-term priorities defined in Treaties.</i> • <i>Concerning the revenue side and the own resources, Slovakia will support simplification of the current complex system of own resources. When it comes to the possible new own resources, we are expecting the results of the work of the High-Level Group on Own Resources. In the context of Brexit and related cancellation of the UK rebate, it would be rational to use this opportunity for cancellation of all budgetary corrections in the post 2020 MFF.</i>

¹³ Position transmitted by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Romania, November 2016

¹⁴ Position transmitted by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Bucharest, November 2016.

<p>Romania</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>In the context of discussions regarding the Multiannual Financial Framework, Cristian Bădescu (MFA Secretary of State) emphasizes the importance of finding balanced solutions which will tackle the current challenges and allow the continuation of fulfilling the Union's traditional objectives, without affecting the payments for the commitments already made.</i>• <i>Concerning the proposals to the additional allocations and to flexibility, he highlights the necessity of finding durable budgetary solutions which will not affect the limits agreed upon in 2013.</i>• <i>In the context, he stresses the need for covering the necessary resources from sources outside of the limits, which will not lead to transfers among chapters or to the impairment of national tires¹⁵.</i>
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E. Challenges at the European level in the context of shaping the next MFF

As many of the EU representatives have acknowledged so far, the EU is experiencing difficult times and is finding itself in an *existential crisis*. The challenges the EU needs to cope with are various and come both from internal disagreements, but also from external pressures. Therefore, topics and domains that have not represented major priorities in the 2007-2013 period now come as urgent questions to answer to.

Given the fact that the Multiannual Financial Framework represents, firstly, a list of political priorities and strategic directions, the EU needs to plan its next MFF to overcome the current challenges which will not disappear until 2020, but also to be prepared for what is coming next, albeit the high uncertainty.

Hence, the questions waiting in line for an answer could be:

1. How will the Union address the **distrust of people** in the European project?
2. In which way **should the EU be reformed because of BREXIT** and the related changes in the budget?
3. How is the European Union preparing itself in terms of **security and defence** and what are the foreseen costs going to be in the next MFF?
4. What kind of financial support will an **efficient migration policy** need?
5. How will the EU **tackle youth unemployment** and the fact that 1 in 2 young people feel marginalised?
6. In which way will the Union prepare itself for potential disruptions that might come up because of the **climate change**?
7. Should the EU invest more in its **Neighbourhood Policy**?
8. What kind of other **financial instruments** (e.g. EFSI) could be developed to sustain the identification and the increase of European public goods?
9. What kind of (financial) reform is needed for the **Cohesion Policy** in order to reduce the current inequalities between regions?
10. How can the **EU achieve more with less** (the challenges have increased, but the EU budget has not)?

Eliza Vaş, EIR Studies and Analyses Unit

¹⁵ Participarea secretarului de stat pentru afaceri europene, Cristian Bădescu, la reuniunea Consiliului Afaceri Generale [Participation of Mr. Cristian Bădescu, Secretary of State for European Affairs to the General Affairs Council reunion], press-release available in Romanian at: <http://mae.ro/node/38883#null>, accessed on 27th of November 2016.

The views of the main European political parties concerning the MFF

Questions	European People's Party ¹	Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats ²	Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe ³
<i>What kind of mid-term review should MFF be based upon?</i>	<p>- The EPP Group demands a comprehensive, wide-ranging review of the functioning of the MFF that subsequently leads to a compulsory legislative revision of the MFF Regulation.</p>	<p>- The S&D Group calls for an in-depth investigation on the extent to which these financial instruments have delivered the results envisaged in the EU's political objectives in terms of both quality and quantity.</p>	<p>- During the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the negotiation of the following MFF, the priority is to ensure that more commitments are foreseen for sectors that can bring economic growth and for research. New own resources should be introduced for the Union.</p>
<i>What kind of challenges / opportunities arise from preparing the mid-term review of the MFF?</i>	<p>- MFF mid-term review will not, as such, be the occasion to revise the substance of the EU legislation that underpins EU policies, the EPP Group considers that this exercise provides a unique opportunity for the European Parliament and its respective Committees to launch a debate on the performance and functioning of all EU policies and programmes.</p>	<p>- "The EU is facing an unprecedented number of different challenges. When we first negotiated the MFF for 2014-2020 in 2013, there were far fewer refugees arriving in Europe per year. Now the number is well over a million. We should recognise that circumstances have changed. We need a comprehensive revision of the MFF and a more ambitious EU budget. The current MFF is outdated⁴." (S&D MEP Jens Geier, the lead negotiator for the Parliament on the 2017 budget)</p>	<p>"We have here a budget that is the 2017 tranche of a multiannual financial framework voted in Autumn 2013 and, with the crises and events that have occurred since 2013, we have a feeling of powerlessness as to the response to be made to these crises."⁵ (Jean Arthuis, ALDE MEP, Chair of the Committee on Budgets)</p>

<p><i>What kind of needs should be addressed during the mid-term review?</i></p>	<p>- The EPP Group stresses the need to address, during the MFF mid-term review and revision, several issues that will only apply in the post-2020 MFF. The urgency of settling these matters now is linked to the very tight timeframe between the MFF mid-term revision and the Commission proposals for the next MFF.</p>	<p>- The S&D Group is determined to ensure the allocation of sufficient resources to properly address the internal and external crises facing the EU. This can only be done by raising the respective MFF 2014-2020 ceilings, and at the same time, enhancing the flexibility provisions of the MFF.</p>	<p>- On the payment side, it is of high priority that all payment delays and backlogs are reduced. ALDE calls for all flexibility margins in the current MFF to be mobilised.</p>
<p><i>Which should be the duration of the MFF cycle after 2020?</i></p>	<p>- The EPP Group supports a solution that aligns the MFF duration with the political cycle of the European Parliament and the Commission, while preserving the need for stability for the programming cycles of the multiannual programmes under shared management.</p>	<p>- The financial framework should become more consistent with the institutional rhythms and match the mandate of Parliament and Commission for reasons of democratic responsibility and accountability. The elected representatives of the citizens should be responsible for the main financial decisions taken during their mandate, to be accountable towards their electorate.</p>	

<p><i>Which is the most important issue to be considered for the post-2020 MFF?</i></p>	<p>- Maximum flexibility. Notwithstanding the important progress on flexibility marked by the inclusion of new provisions in the 2014-2020 MFF, the experience of the past two years shows that further effort is needed to make the budget more flexible and responsive to unforeseen events. For the post-2020 MFF, the EPP Group envisages more internal flexibility between the headings and years that will also allow for the maximum utilisation of the new MFF ceilings.</p>		
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¹ Position Paper on the MFF Mid-Term Review & Revision, available online at: <http://www.eppgroup.eu/our-priority/Position-Paper-on-the-MFF-Mid-Term-Review-%26-Revision>, seen on 9th of November 2016.

² S&D Strategy on the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) (2014-2020), available at: http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/sites/default/files/position_paper_SD_position%20paper_MFF%20interim%20revision_en_%20160531_formatted_V2.pdf, seen on 15th of November 2016.

³ ALDE-COR Political Priorities for 2015-2020, available at: <http://alde-cor.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2628-ALDE-priorities-2015-2019-brochure-final.pdf>, seen on 15th of November 2016.

⁴ EU budgets: More resources and greater flexibility to deal with emerging crises, available at: <http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/nl/newsroom/eu-budgets-more-resources-and-greater-flexibility-deal-emerging-crises>, seen on 26th of November 2016.

⁵ EU Budget 2017: Council's position contradictory, say Budget MEPs, available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/ro/news-room/20160830IPR40529/eu-budget-2017-council%E2%80%99s-position-contradictory-say-budget-meps>, seen on 26th of November.

Events related to the next MFF organised during the Dutch and Slovak Presidency of the European Union		
	<p>The Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Presidency Conference on the Multiannual Financial Framework)¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The citizens are entitled to an EU budget that enables the EU institutions to meet the challenges head-on. The budget and the goals need to be reconsidered. • The economic crisis and the migration crisis have laid bare the limitations of the Multiannual Financial Framework. The current budget is not futureproof. • The top concern should be to build a flexible and modern budget that is strongly linked to the common political priorities, and that takes the perspectives of the citizens much more seriously. • The Multiannual Financial Framework should be prevented from being a destination. It should instead aim to build the European citizens' collective values and aspirations. [Bert Koenders, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands] 	<p>The Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union (GLOBSEC Tatra Summit 2016 - <i>Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020 – Balance Between Political Ambition and Realism</i> panel)²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest challenge we are facing now is to restore the citizens' trust in the European project; Europe is suffering from fatigue and credibility and we should consider these in the next financial framework; • For sustaining the European project, we need to ensure that there is connectivity; The Single Market is probably the best illustration of the European Union, but on the other hand, the European funds illustrate better the connectivity between the citizen and the European Union; • The next MFF should be flexible, but also predictable, it should work within parameters, and it should ensure that the institutional mechanism is simplified. [Louis Grech, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs of the Republic of Malta]
<p>The citizens' trust in the European project</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohesion funds are often severely criticized, but in the last evaluation for 2007-2013, we found out that each € 1 euro in cohesion funds has generated over € 4 in GDP; • The EU budget is an investment budget first and foremost; • In terms of change we need to pay attention to the European Value Added, the agility of the budget, and to the simplification; • A reform on the budget should focus on the expenditures and revenues simultaneously. • The citizen should be brought closer to what is being funded and to what happens on the revenue side. [Kristalina Georgieva, Vice-president for Budget and Human Resources, European Commission]
<p>The Commission and the next MFF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People often talk about 'more Europe' being necessary to deal with the current challenges we face. If we need more Europe now can be discussed. However, what we absolutely need right now is better Europe. And that applies to the EU budget as well. • It can be arguable that the reformed CAP is achieving a sufficiently high degree of European added value; • Also, another question would be if the new cohesion policy is delivering EU added value and if we should reassess which countries and regions qualify for cohesion funding. The current MFF is split 56% for new MS (including Croatia) and 44% for the so-called old Member State. [Kristalina Georgieva, Vice-president for Budget and Human Resources, European Commission] 	

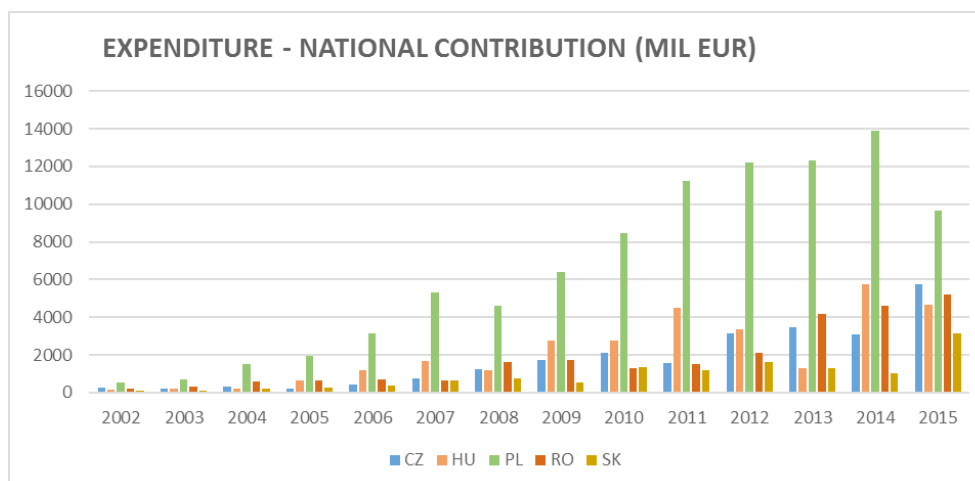
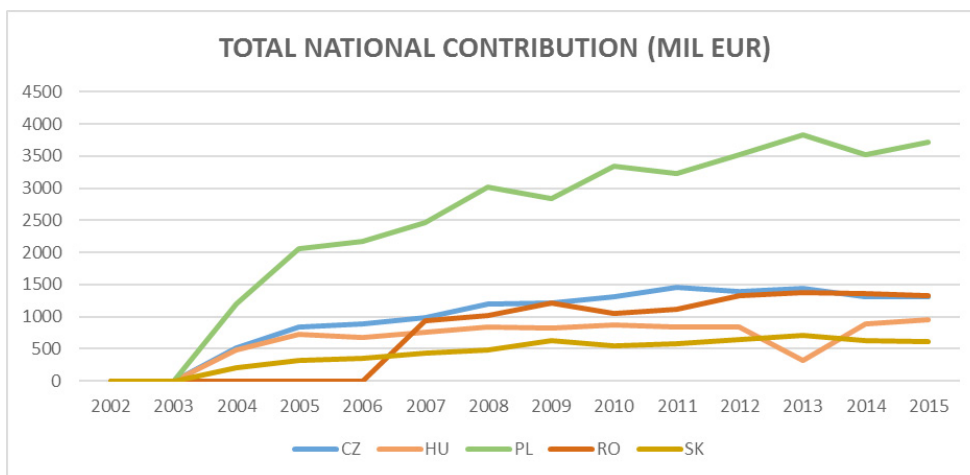
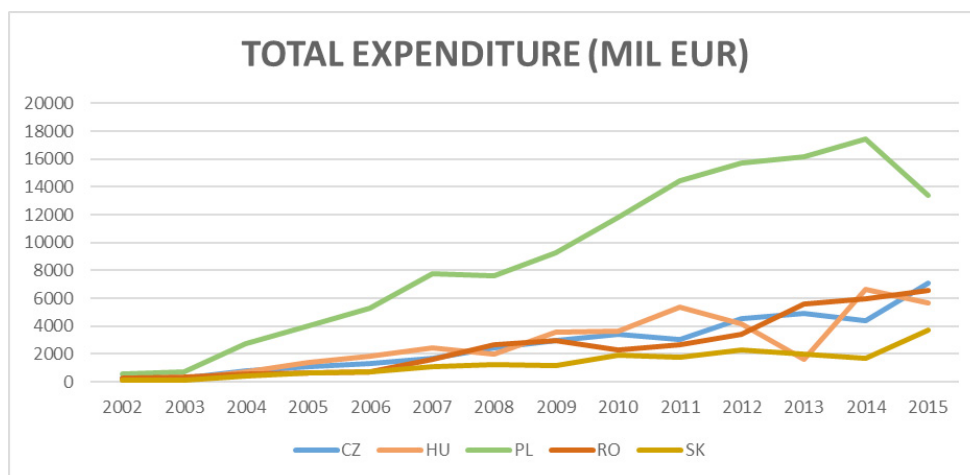
<p>Ten principles the MFF could be based upon¹</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The MFF should focus on policies with clear European Added Value;</i> 2. <i>The MFF should be democratically accountable and transparent towards citizens;</i> 3. <i>New taxes to the own resources should not be added;</i> 4. <i>There is a need for sufficient value-adding and flexible own resources;</i> 5. <i>A package approach for changes on the revenue and expenditure sides is needed;</i> 6. <i>More flexibility at the start of the MFF process should be created;</i> 7. <i>There should be more used the flexible financial instruments based on European Added Value.</i> 8. <i>A feedback system that eliminates spending which fails to achieve the intended results should be put in place;</i> 9. <i>There should be a clear definition of European Added Value.</i> 10. <i>The negotiation for the goals of the MFF should be expressed in terms of European Added Value.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have learnt so far that the MFF is not suited for the challenges the EU is currently facing, we need to do something in that respect and we should be focusing on a budget based on the European Added Value and Performance; • A budget is a translation of a common vision, a common ambition into sums and figures, based on a fair assessment of expenditures and revenues, considering the capacity of tax-payers; • Migration, youth unemployment, climate change they all represent priorities among others, and we also need to have in mind that the risk of frustration and unpopularity manifested by the citizens is mounting; • The main point we should be focusing right now is to identify the European public goods; [Jean Arthuis – Chairman, Committee on Budgets, European Parliament]
<p>The challenges for the current and next MFF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upsides of a more flexible budget are clear. If we look at the current migration crisis, this could provide for the necessary ability to unite and react collectively through the EU-budget, as the value added of such a joint response is undisputed. • The current financing of the EU-budget is too complicated, and not transparent enough. The budget is financed through different sources, different methods are being used to calculate the contributions. These practices lack transparency and do not contribute to a thorough discussion on shaping the expenditure side of the budget. [Jeroen Dijsselbloem, Minister of Finance, the Netherlands] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenges we are facing this time are bigger than in the last MFF; • New priorities were agreed in the Council of the European Union: migration, security and defence, neighbourhood policy; • Brexit: parameters are not known now, when it will take place, which will be the consequences, but the budget in absolute terms will go lower. • Cohesion policy is still a relevant policy for the Union and the social-economic convergence is still needed; • Many regions which are under-developed are also Eurosceptic and we need to pay attention to that as well; [Peter Javorcik, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the European Union]

¹ Report of the Presidency Conference on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), available online at: <https://english.eu2016.nl/documents/publications/2016/02/26/report-of-presidency-conference-on-the-multiannual-financial-framework-mff>, accessed on 26th of November 2016.

² Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020 – Balance Between Political Ambition and Realism, available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6LTIQ3KID8>, accessed on 27th of November 2016.

³ *Idem*, pg. 25.

Country comparison in terms of expenditure and total national contribution (European Union and Member States) – 2002 - 2015¹



¹ Data collected from: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/figures/interactive/index_en.cfm.

SPEAKERS



Leonard Orban

Since January 2015 Mr. Leonard Orban is Presidential Advisor for European affairs within the Romanian Presidential Administration.

From December 2013 – December 2014 Mr. Leonard Orban was President of the Administrative Board of the European Institute of Romania.

Since February 2013 Mr. Leonard Orban is Associate Professor at the Romanian-American University in Bucharest.

From September 2011 to December 2012, Mr. Orban was Minister of European Affairs in charge of European affairs and European funds.

From 2010 to September 2011, Mr. Orban was Presidential Advisor for European affairs within the Presidential Administration.

In January 2007, Leonard Orban became the first Romanian Commissioner in the European Commission. In the period January 2007 to February 2010, Leonard Orban was Member of the European Commission in charge of Multilingualism.

Starting from May 2001 until the closing of negotiations for Romania's accession to the European Union and the signing of the Accession Treaty in April 2005, Leonard Orban was Negotiator and, subsequently, Chief Negotiator with the European Union, at the Ministry of European Integration.

Mr. Orban has continued to coordinate the process of preparation for Romania's accession to the EU as State Secretary at the Ministry of European Integration from December 2004 to December 2006.

In the period 1993 – 2001 he was Parliamentary Advisor for European and International Affairs at the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania.

In 2002 he was decorated with the Order "Star of Romania", in the rank of Knight, for his contribution to Romania's accession to NATO.

Leonard Orban has graduated the Faculty of Mechanics, University of Braşov, and the Faculty of Management at the University of Economic Studies, Bucharest.



Marcin Wilczek

Marcin Wilczek is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Romania since September 10th 2015. Prior to this position he served as Consul General at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Istanbul (2005-2008), as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Turkey (2008-2012) and Chief of Staff / Head of Minister's Secretariat (2012-2015). His earlier assignments included working as First Secretary/ Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London (1997-2002) and as Desk Officer for Turkey and Albania in the Europe Department of the MFA (1994-1997). He is a career diplomat who has joined the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994.

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Marcin Wilczek has an MA from the Institute of Applied Linguistics of University of Warsaw (1991) and he also graduated from the National School of Public Administration in Warsaw (1994). He speaks English, French and Turkish.



Ján Gábor

Dr. Ján Gábor, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Romania (since 2012) worked in the diplomatic service since 1984. During his career he dealt with issues of International law, in particular the negotiation of international agreements. He worked in various positions at Embassies in Managua (Nicaragua), Washington (USA), Havana (Cuba), as the Ambassador in Dublin (Ireland) and the Ambassador in Bucharest (Romania). He served as the Director General for the Human Section of the MFA (1993 - 1997) and at the same time as a member of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on National Minorities (1993-1996). Later he was the Deputy Head of Mission of the Slovak Republic in the USA (1997 - 1999); the Head of Diplomatic mission of Slovak Republic in Cuba (1999-2001), the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Ireland (2004-2008). Since October 2012, he held the post of Ambassador of Slovakia in Bucharest (Romania).



Cristian Marius Bădescu

Cristian Marius Bădescu was appointed Secretary of State for European Affairs on February 19, 2016. A career diplomat, he has joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania in 1999. Previously, he had worked as parliamentary expert with the Chamber of Deputies, Romania.

Throughout his diplomatic activity, Cristian Bădescu held responsibilities within the Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as in the Foreign Service, with over ten years of experience in management positions. Between 2010 and 2016, he acted as Deputy Permanent Representative of Romania to the European Union (COREPER I). Prior to this position, between 2005 and 2009, he was Director of EU Policies Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-President of the Committee for Coordination of Romania's Positions on EU Sectoral Policies. Between 2001 and 2005, he worked with the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office at Geneva and to the International Organisations based in Switzerland, being in charge with migration and refugees issues.

He graduated in 1993 from the Politehnica University in Bucharest, Faculty of Precision Mechanics. He holds a Master's Degree in Administrative Studies from the National University for Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest (1996) and a Master's Degree in International Relations from the European Institute of High International Studies, Nice (France)/Berlin

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(Germany) of the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), Nice (1998), one of the six European academic institutes supported by the European Commission. From 2015, he is a member of the Administrative Board of CIFE. In August 2006, he graduated from the Executive Seminar: EU Governance of Hertie School of Governance, in Berlin. Furthermore, in 2008, he attended the Security Studies Programme of the George Marshall College of International and Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany.



Takács Szabolcs

Takács Szabolcs is the State Secretary for European Union Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office in Hungary. Prior to this position, he served as the Deputy State Secretary for Security Policy (Political Director) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He also served as the Deputy State Secretary for Global Affairs between 2012 and 2013, and as a Director General of the Asia-Pacific Department between 2011 and 2012. His earlier assignments included working as a director at the Office of the Deputy State Secretary for Global Affairs and also as a director at the Office of the Deputy State Secretary in charge of bilateral relations with non-European countries and International Development Cooperation. Between 2005 and 2009 he was the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Hungary in Doha and prior to that worked at the Department of Asia-Pacific since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2002.



Gabriela Drăgan

Gabriela Drăgan, PhD, is Professor within the International Business and Economics Department and Director General of the European Institute of Romania. She published, as single author or co-author, an important number of books and articles and she participated as speaker or moderator in different conferences, national and international debates. She coordinated Jean Monnet courses, she is member of Team Europe, coordinated by the European Commission Representation in Romania and she is the director of the Romanian Journal of European Affairs, edited by the European Institute of Romania. She is also member of the Scientific Editorial Board of the Romanian Economic Journal, Faculty of International Business and Economics, member in the International Advisory Board of the Eastern Journal of European Studies, Center for European Studies, University A.I. Cuza Iași etc. As recognition of her contribution to the promotion of the Polish-Romanian cooperation in European affairs, in November 2013 she received the high-rank decoration the Knight Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, conferred by the President of the Republic of Poland.



Daniel Dăianu

Member of HLGOR (High-Level Group on Own Resources), chaired by Mario Monti; Member of the Romanian Academy; Member of the Board of the National Bank of Romania; Professor of Economics, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest; former Member of the European Parliament (2007-2009) and co-author of the EP Report on the reform of regulation and supervision of financial markets; author of “Europa în impas” [Europe at a crossroads], Polirom 2015; co-editor of “The Eurozone crisis and the future of Europe”, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014; author of “Which Way Goes Capitalism?”, CEU Press, Budapest/New York, 2009; Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Banca Comerciala Romana (2005-2007); Finance Minister of Romania, 1997/1998; Chief Economist of the National Bank of Romania, 1992-1997; Deputy Minister of Finance, 1992; Chairman of the Romanian Economic Society; Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations; Trustee of Friends of Europe; Fellow of CASE; Guest researcher at Harvard University, Wilson Center (Washington DC), IMF (Washington DC), NATO Defense College (Rome), among others; Visiting Professor at Berkeley, UCLA, Bologna University, among others; President of Junior Achievement Romania; Member of the Black Sea Region Commission. Other writings: ‘The Macroeconomics of EU Integration: The Case of Romania’, Rosetti Educational, Bucharest, 2008; “South East Europe and The World We Live In”, Bucharest, Romanian Diplomatic Institute, 2008; with Radu Vrânceanu (ed.), “Ethical Boundaries of Capitalism”, Ashgate (UK), 2005; with Thanos Veremis (ed.), “Balkan Reconstruction”, London, Frank Cass, 2001; “Transformation As A Real Process”, Aldershot (UK), Ashgate, 1998; “Economic Vitality and Viability. A Dual Challenge for European Security” Frankfurt, Peter Lang, 1996.



Mihaela Vrabete

Mihaela Vrabete, acting currently as Secretary of State with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, is specialized in local and territorial strategic planning, development strategies and policies, urban management, local economic development, public private partnerships, metropolitan development, institutional capacity building, economic clusters.

With a 16 years of experience as consultant with EU, World Bank and USAID programs in the fields of local and regional strategic spatial and economic development, she worked with international consulting teams and conducted projects such as economic development strategies, metropolitan areas structuring in Romania, and has experience in working in international programs in economic development, innovation and smart specialization. Ms Vrabete worked since 1993 with academic sector in the fields of urban and spatial planning, development strategies and policies, economic competitiveness. She worked with the Ministry of Regional Development and Housing as minister advisor and general director for spatial strategic development, and contributed as member of

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national and EU working groups and boards in the fields of urban and spatial planning, and ESPON 2013 Program. Ms Vrabette has four years of experience with Halcrow Romania as director of Development Planning and Design Dept, experience as Chief Architect with Bistrița-Năsăud County Council, and Director of the Intercommunity Development Association of Maramureș County.

Ms Vrabette graduated from the 'Ion Mincu' Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning, Bucharest in 1982, and graduated in 1996 the same institute's Postgraduate Course in Urban and Regional Planning. She graduated the Urban Management Course with The Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of the Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

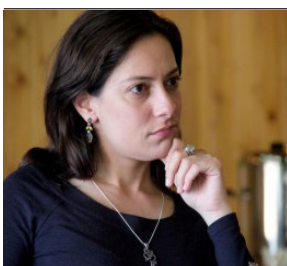


Daniela Giurcă

Daniela Giurcă, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development (MARD) since May 2016, advisor at the Prime Minister's Chancellery in the High Representative for Sustainable Development Department (2014 – April 2016). In 2011 – 2014 she coordinated several workshops on public policy concerning different topics as "EU Inclusive - transfer of data and experience on the inclusion of Roma population between Romania, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain" and "NEXUS - Migration and Development". In the same period Daniela Giurcă was Chairman and program coordinator of the Foundation for Inclusion and Social Cohesion. During 2005 – 2010 she held several positions within the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, including as Director General of Directorate General of Agricultural Policy.

Daniela Giurcă holds a PhD in Horticulture, from the University of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry, and followed during the studies courses at the Agronomic Institute Nicolae Bălcescu - Bucharest and Wye College University of London.

During her career she participated as an expert, consultant in national and international projects, including "Common Agricultural Policy 2014 – 2020", "National Rural Development Programme in the context of the CAP 2014 – 2020", "Strategic Planning for Agricultural Administration", "Strengthening MARD for formulating strategies in the agrifood sector", etc.



Oana Popescu

Oana Popescu is Secretary of State for European affairs within the Romanian Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly since September 2016. Previously, she was director and co-founder of Global Focus Centre (an independent think-tank of foreign policy and strategic analysis), also Programs Director of the Aspen Institute Romania and Adviser to the Romanian Senate's Commission for Foreign Policy.

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With a long-lasting experience in the fields of European affairs and foreign policy, she is also concerned about social issues such as child and disadvantaged groups' protection, social inclusion, domestic violence, rehabilitation of drug addicts and homeless people. As an expert in policy analysis and policy making, she stands for all those actions aimed to contribute to the shaping of Romania's foreign policy and to promote Romania's image and interests abroad.

Oana Popescu graduated from University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages. She holds a Master's Degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest and is also specialized in democratization, post-conflict reconstruction and new types of threats taking into consideration her research grant provided by the Yale University, United States of America. She was a university lecturer at Harvard-Kennedy School of Government and Bucerius. She was a Fulbright and Visegrad Fund grantee and took part in other internship programs organized in Denmark, Belgium, Germany and the United States of America.



Valentin Lazea

Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Institute of Romania. Since 1999 Valentin Lazea has been Chief Economist of the National Bank of Romania and since November 2004 Chairman of the Board of Directors of TransFond S.A., the company technically operating the electronic system for payments. Between 1997-1998 and August-December 2000 he was State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

Valentin Lazea is a graduate of the Sussex University in Brighton and of the IMF Institute in Washington DC.



Bianca Toma

Bianca Toma is Program Director at the Romanian Centre for European Policies. After two years as European Affairs correspondent for one of the main national newspapers, Adevărul, she becomes one of the Open Society Institute's policy research fellow and member of CRPE's experts team. She has graduated the European Policies and Communication Master program of IHECS in Brussels (Belgium) has activated over 8 years as journalist covering justice and home affairs and coordinating several regional media projects. Areas of expertise: Justice and Home Affairs, Regional Policy – structural funds, EU eastern neighborhood policy, EU Enlargement.

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Ovidiu Nahoi

Ovidiu Nahoi is one of the most important Romanian journalists. After a period of working for Uniplus, the first independent Romanian radio station in 1989, he continued his activity as a reporter, documentary film producer and political analyst for the Mediafax press agency and then for the Evenimentul Zilei. Mr. Nahoi was deputy editor-in-chief of Adevărul, journalist at Money TV, and currently he is publisher at Dilema Veche and hosts TV and Radio productions (e.g. Geopolitice, TVR and Decriptaj, RFI Romania).



Małgorzata Kałużyńska

Since January 2010, Małgorzata Kałużyńska has served as the Director of the EU Economic Department. The Department has a leading role in the European policy as regards the economic issues: reform of the Economic and Monetary Union, negotiation of the financial framework 2014-2020, “Europe 2020” strategy, EU Internal Market and digital single market, energy and climate policy, economic analyses in trade, social policies and employment, cost and benefits of Poland’s EU membership in the EU and implementation of the Impact Assessment system of EU legislation. Prior to this post, Małgorzata Kałużyńska served as Director of the Department for Analyses and Strategies in Office of the Committee for European Integration responsible for economic analyses of the EU reforms in terms of financial perspectives and the economic program of EU, as well as analyzing impact of the existing EU policies, new policies and reform of EU policies on Polish economy. She has also been introducing the Impact Assessment system for implementation of EU legislation, analyzing costs and benefits of the Polish accession to the EU and analyzing the Member States’ approaches towards European policies. Previously, she has also served as Director of the Department for Economic Regulations of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Poland, where she has introduced regulatory reform and has been responsible for the formulation and implementation of the Polish policy dealing with regulatory burdens for business, simplification of business permits, administrative burden measurement and regulatory impact assessments. Moreover, on this post Małgorzata Kałużyńska has legislative responsibilities covering horizontal economic, technical and environmental legislation. She has also been Member of the High Level Group of National Better Regulation Experts. Her professional career started in 2000 in the Office of the Committee for European Integration, where she worked in the Department of Support for the Accession Negotiations and Department for Economic and Social Analyses. After Poland’s accession to EU she has served as the Head of the Lisbon Strategy Unit. Małgorzata Kałużyńska holds a Master’s degree in International Economics and Political Relations from the Warsaw School of Economics (Poland) and has also studied European Studies at the Sussex University (United Kingdom).



Michal Částek

Michal Částek (Ústí nad Orlicí, 1975) studied International Trade and European Economic Integration at the University of Economics in Prague and at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Charles University. Mr Částek was working as an advisor at the Parliamentary Institute of the Chamber of Deputies (2003-2007), since 2007 he has been working at the Czech Ministry of Finance at the EU Budget Unit. Currently he is head of the EU Budget Unit and is responsible for coordination of the Czech Republic's position on the Multiannual Financial Framework, EU annual budget and the EU own resources. Mr Částek is married, has two children.



Štefan Jankovič

Štefan Jankovič, Head of the EU Economic Policies Unit, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. From 2009 to 2015 Member of the Budget Committee of the Council and from 2011 to 2013 Member of the Friends of the Presidency Group for the Multiannual Financial Framework. Senior expert dealing with the EU Budget from 2004 at Ministry of Finance (EU Budget Department, Advisor to State Secretary), Permanent Representation to the EU and Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.



Dávid Mezei

Dávid Mezei is the Deputy State Secretary for rural development programming and for rural development strategic affairs at the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office. Prior to this position, he served as permanent representative – agricultural attaché at the Embassy of Hungary in Rome (2013-2014) and as European Parliament consultant (2004-2013). Between 2000 and 2004, David Mezei worked for the Hungarian Ministry of Economy, first as professional secretary (2000-2002) and then as investment and EU specialist. He graduated the Faculty of Law of the Eötvös Loránd University in 2000 and completed a Master of European Economic and Public Affairs at the University College Dublin in 2003. In 2009 he passed his Bar exam. He speaks English, French and Italian.

SPEAKERS



Alina Bârgăoanu

Alina Bârgăoanu, Professor PhD, Dean of the Communication and Public Relation Faculty, Chancellor of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Romanian School of Government), between 2012 - 2014; Chairman of the Board of the European Institute of Romania; “EU Communication and the Public Sphere” Jean Monnet chair holder and academic coordinator of the Jean Monnet Module “Communicating Europe. Policies for Increasing EU’s Visibility among Member States”. Recent books: *United by or Against Euroscepticism. An Assessment of Public Attitudes towards Europe in the Context of the Crisis* (Cambridge Scholars, 2015), *The Crisis of the European Union. Identity, Citizenship and Solidarity Reassessed* (2013), *Comunicarea în Uniunea Europeană. Modele teoretice și aspecte practice [EU Communication. Views from Theory and Practice]* (2011), *Examenul Schengen. În căutarea sferei publice europene [The Schengen Test. In Search of the European Public Sphere]* (2011), *Fondurile europene. Strategii de promovare și utilizare [European Funds. Promotion and Absorption Strategies]* (2009). Founder of the Center for EU Communication Studies and of the online magazine *Convorbiri Europene* (www.convorbirieuropene.ro); Fulbright scholar (2001-2002).



Ligia Deca

Ligia Deca, State Counsellor in the Education and Research Department since June 2015.

She graduated the Navigation and Naval Transport Faculty at the Maritime University of Constanța, where she also got a Master’s degree in maritime and port management.

She is currently a researcher in doctoral training (Political Science) at the University of Luxembourg.

In 2008, she coordinated the Coalition for Clean Universities - a pilot project implemented by the Romanian Academic Society in order to assess the integrity of Romanian higher education institutions.

She was president of the European Students’ Union (2008-2010), ensuring the representation of the interests of the 11 million students across 37 states in their relationship with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other European structures responsible for policies in tertiary education.

Between 2010 and 2012, she coordinated the Bologna Process Secretariat, coordinating the organization of the Conference of Education Ministers of the Member States of the European Higher Education Area (April 2012).

Between 2012 and 2015, she was a public policy expert at the Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation and also lecturer (2014-2015) in Training and educational inclusion systems at the West University of Timișoara.

Author and co-author of many articles published in prestigious journals, she is a member of the Jury for the European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities granted by the Central European University.

In 2014, she was a member of the Science in Education Expert Group. Over the years she has taken part in numerous international conferences and has been actively involved in developing analyses and policies on education and research at national and European level.



Iulia Matei

Iulia Matei is a career diplomat with a solid background in EU affairs. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003.

From 2003-2007, she worked on various EU related issues in the EU Department of the MFA. Between 2007 and 2012, Mrs. Matei was Head of the European Parliament Section at the Romanian Permanent Representation to the EU.

She graduated from the Faculty of Political and Administrative Sciences, the French division, and has an M.A. in European Studies at the Institut d'Etudes Européennes de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles. She has also attended the course "Relations internationales et construction européenne dans l'après guerre froide", at Ecole d'Eté AUELF-UREF, Centre d'études des relations internationales et stratégiques, Université Libre de Bruxelles and the training programs in the field of European affairs organized by l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration, Paris and the Centre d'études européens, Strasbourg.

Iulia Matei is fluent in English and French. She was born in August 1978, is married and has two children.



Sorin Costreie

Sorin Costreie is Secretary of State for International Relations, European Affairs, Judicial Field, Projects and Dual-learning mechanism within the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research. He previously carried out advanced research at the University of Western Ontario, where he also taught a number of courses and tutorials for Philosophy students. Hence, in 2003, he was nominated for Graduate Student Teaching Award.

He holds a PhD in the field of philosophy (granted by the University of Bucharest in 2007). His research interests cover logic, philosophy of science, metaphysics, epistemology, critical thinking, and history of philosophy (especially early analytic and Leibniz). He published extensively on Leibniz and Frege and, more recently, on logic and argumentation for legal studies. In addition, he has been coordinating the MA program in Analytic Philosophy.

Moreover, Sorin Costreie attended more than 50 international conferences due to his membership in various academic and professional organizations such as: Canadian Philosophical Association (C.P.A.), American Philosophical Association (A.P.A.), Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (C.S.H.P.S.), Romanian Society for Analytical Philosophy (S.R.F.A.).

THE “EUROPEAN SCHOOL” NATIONAL COMPETITION 2004-2016

The “*European School*” competition is an initiative of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research (MNESR) which *supports, promotes, values and encourages*



MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI
CERCETĂRII ȘTIINȚIFICE

Romanian schools to take part in European programmes in education, vocational training, youth and sport and which enjoys recognition from European institutions.

For the last 13 years, the participants in this competition have been schools that implemented projects under European programmes for education and vocational training (Socrates 1996-2006, Lifelong Learning 2007-2013 and Erasmus+ 2014-2020).

The “European School” Competition is acknowledged by European institutions as an example of good practice at European level. The Ministry, as the national authority in this field, values and motivates schools to participate in the European Commission’s programmes for education and vocational training. In his letter to the Ministry of Education, Mr Martin Schulz - President of the European Parliament, states: *“The purpose of your initiative, to reward Romanian schools participating in European programmes, is highly appreciated. It is now more important than ever to get young people involved in the European integration process and to stimulate their interest and enthusiasm for Europe. In view of the clear European dimension of this project, it gives me great pleasure to grant the high patronage of the European Parliament to your initiative.”*

The high patronage of the European Parliament is an acknowledgement of this initiative that supports, values and encourages the participation of pupils and teachers in European programmes. These programs offered and continue to provide opportunities for developing partnerships with schools and organisations across Europe, to improve the quality of teaching and learning processes and the standards in this field. School partnerships developed under these programs encourage exchanges, cooperation and mobility between European institutions and systems of education and vocational training.

The “European School” competition is about assessing the quality and consistency of a school’s management, reflected in management documents, as well as the impact that activities carried out under European projects have had on the school’s organizational culture and ethos.

Once obtained, the “European School” certificate is valid for three years, after which the school must reapply to reconfirm the obtained title. The **13 editions** of the competition (2004-2016) were attended by **1 794 schools** in all counties and **651** of them have received the **“European School” certificate and trophy**. Each edition is open to both schools whose “European School” certificate is about to expire and schools running for the first time. Application documents reflect the work done by the school, teachers and pupils in European projects over the last three years.

Certifying schools as “European School” gives them recognition and prestige within the educational community, and the efforts they make to maintain the obtained title lead to a growing interest in developing new projects, which leads to improving the school management and developing a solid corporate culture.

The activities/projects/programmes taken into consideration in the evaluation process are those conducted by schools *under the programmes of European institutions* such as the European Commission and the European Parliament {Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP 2007-2013), Erasmus+ (2014-2020), eTwinning, Euroscola, Juvenes Translatores, Europe-Our Home, European Leader, etc.}, *in partnership* with embassies, universities and schools across the European Union, European companies, European professional associations, NGOs specialised in education/training active at European level, etc., or those *financed from structural funds* in which the school is the applicant or partner.

By participating in European cooperation projects which involve children, youngsters, teachers, parents, representatives of local and regional communities, Romanian schools promote national and European values and enjoy at the same time the opportunity to establish partner networks with schools across Europe and, implicitly, to attract European funds.

NO. 1 SCHOOL CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, ORADEA

The No. 1 School Center for Inclusive Education Oradea is an institution which provides an educational environment in which the rights and dignity of pupils and students with disabilities are respected. Even if they are different, these children have the same needs as everyone. Our belief is: **“In God’s eyes we are all equal”**.



What gives us the power to go on is a world in which the barriers between healthy people and people with disabilities will disappear and there will be equal rights and chances for everyone. Our center promotes values, rights and liberties, including the respect for the individual and individuality, the right to equal chances, integration and socialization strategies for children with special educational needs. Our institution offers a wide range of specialized services and resources meant to improve as much as possible the situation of children with disabilities; it also offers certain special therapies under the surveillance of authorized experts.

The activities of the center include the **“Special Kids” International Cultural Festival**, which took place during the exchange programme for teachers under the **Comenius** multilateral school partnership **“A better life for children with special educational needs”** (in February 2008). Participants were pupils and teachers from Bulgaria, Latvia, Portugal and Turkey. By getting involved in those activities, the pupils got used to the music, dance, decorative art and customs of their new foreign friends.

Another significant activity was the **trip to Bear Cave (Pestera Ursilor)** and the **Ethnographic Museum of Chiscau**; on this occasion, pupils had the opportunity to interact with children from other European schools (Portugal, Latvia and Bulgaria), to develop feelings of cooperation and tolerance and to discover new things.

The center has visibility at European level through the projects and partnerships in which it is involved. Some of these partnerships are: **“Starting early to make a life better for children with special needs”**, **“Full proposal and management of European educational projects”**, **“Communication through Internet”**.



ECONOMIC COLLEGE BUZĂU

The Economic College Buzău is a school establishment that provides the community with vocational qualification and training at European standards for each and everybody, education for integration and integration for education. It is the space where trainees, trainers, parents and employers have equal access to lifelong learning.

The school promotes an organizational culture of excellence based on a set of European values: unity, human dignity, democracy, non-discrimination, pluralism, equality, freedom of expression, solidarity, identity and traditions, safety, tolerance.

It promotes fundamental knowledge and vocational training based on a set of key competencies:

- Cultivating language skills (mother tongue, foreign languages)
- Promoting the learning of sciences
- Developing information technology
- Develop learning skills and competences (learning how to learn)
- Practising sports and teamwork
- Developing cultural expression
- Promoting entrepreneurial education
- Developing civic, interpersonal, intercultural and social attitudes

2014-2016 - Erasmus Project "Improvement of Branding for Rural Areas through Vocational Education" (2014-1-ES01-KA202-004521 / Erasmus + KA2)

The IBRAVE project aims to make local areas more attractive for residents and tourists by developing vocational skills through exploring the existing branding methods. The main objectives are to develop, through cross-border cooperation, vocational skills and identify the most effective methods, on a municipality level, to strengthen the link between local SMEs and municipalities. Partners: Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

2012-2014 – "Believe It Or Not" (BION), a project funded by the European Commission through the Lifelong Learning programme - Comenius sectoral programme

The main objectives were to improve the quality of the European dimension of education by increasing mobility, thereby involving pupils and teachers from EU Member States, to learn and use as many foreign languages, to support the development of innovation and creativity in the use of ICT, to make pupils aware of the values and beliefs of other cultures, to become more tolerant and aware of the importance of multilingualism. Schools involved: from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Wales. 30 mobilities were made.

The projects were visible on dedicated websites and in the mass media of the participating countries. Project activities have been disseminated to all pupils, teachers and parents, each becoming information multipliers.



“ION GHICA” ECONOMIC COLLEGE, TÂRGOVIȘTE

Our school’s vision: the “Ion Ghica” Economic College is a step into the future because “The future is services”.

Our school’s mission: Honouring its status as **European School** and its tradition in general and vocational training for Services, the “Ion Ghica” Economic College in Târgoviște is committed to pupils’ personal and professional development in terms of qualitative education, providing them with equal opportunities for socio-professional integration and lifelong learning in the Romanian and international area.

With its valuable team of textbook authors, teachers with PhDs, methodologists, inspectors and curriculum authors, the “Ion Ghica” Economic College was consistently focused on assuring qualitative education and promoting the European spirit and values, its partnerships and projects with European funding being representative of this.

Among these, we would like to mention that during the school year 2015–2016 six POS DRU projects and six projects Erasmus+ were implemented, and that in the 2016-2017 school year four projects Erasmus+ are underway (2 partnerships between schools and 2 projects for education innovation). Moreover, we would like to mention our education and vocational training partnerships with foreign partners, our college being a training provider in the economic sector for one flow of students from the Netherlands and two flows of students from Turkey (2014-2015), one flow of teachers from the Republic of Moldova (2014-2015) and two flows of teachers from Turkey (2015-2016).



At European level, our college strengthened its collaboration with vocational and technical training stakeholders, being a member of several partner networks: EU.EM.NET, Eurament, Translog.

As a beneficiary of all types of financing from European and international programmes — **Phare VET** (1), **Phare TVET** (2) **Phare Human Resources** (8), **Leonardo Partner Network** (NTW - 1), **Leonardo Partnership** (1), **Leonardo VETPRO** (3) **Leonardo TOI** (3), **Comenius bilateral** (2), **Comenius**

Multilateral (4) **DID** (Department for Education, USA), **Grundtvig** (2), **LEADER** (1), **eTwinning** (3), **Erasmus+** (6), **ESF through POS-DRU** (8) — our college was honoured with the ANPCDEF’s diploma for outstanding achievements in promoting European cooperation (2013) and the Romanian Government’s award for excellence at the Edumanager Gala (2013).

“ANDREI ȘAGUNA” SECONDARY SCHOOL, DEVA

“Andrei Șaguna” Secondary School has as purposes to consolidate the European mission in education through the continuing cooperation with national and international secondary schools, to improve the quantity and quality of the foreign languages skills, to consolidate the multiculturalism, the educational cooperation and mobility and to apply the innovation in the teaching methods and the information technology.



The school promotes the early intervention actions, even in the pre-primary education, with the purpose to prevent the school drop-out and to reduce the education and training, modernizes the facilities and the equipment base in accordance with the XXI century requirements, educates in the spirit of the Lisbon Strategy, experiences the European educational systems through international partnerships, provides optional activities of interest for the students.

Annually, our students participate at the competitions and school olympics at local, county, national and international level obtaining numerous prizes and mentions. In addition, there have been won international prizes at Little Silver Elephant – Wuppertal (Germany), and a student attended the Junior International Olympics in Sciences in Jakarta. Another student has been selected by the “PRO College”.

Since 2001 our school has developed 68 projects such as Comenius, eTwinning, European Label, “Europe@t School Internet Award Scheme”, Individual Mobility for Continuing Training, a Study Tour for Trainers and Professional Developers, 7 bilateral and cross-border projects.

- 5 times consecutively the certification as European School and the Green Flag award as Eco School;
- 45 partnerships with education institutions from 16 European countries;
- Since 2007 there is an annual national symposia initiated by the project “Nature, our friend”;
- The project “I am a citizen of Europe” developed a guide for the very young European citizens specially appreciated by the local community;
- The school has attended 10 editions of the National Competition “Made for Europe”, winning 1 first prize, 2 second prizes, 3 third prizes, 3 mentions and 1 attendance certificate;
- 60 students and 60 teachers have been involved in the activities of the trans-national mobility projects;
- “Crisalide” – the school magazine obtained the title of “National Laureate”;
- Our chemistry teacher has won “The 2012 Teacher of the Year” within the Hunedoara county;
- Since 2001, the school provides the “STEP BY STEP” educational alternatives.



“MIHAI EMINESCU” NATIONAL COLLEGE, BAIJA MARE

The “Mihai Eminescu” National College is an organization that aims to achieve excellence in education services for the training of valuable, creative-pragmatic, moral-civic and European personalities, thereby contributing to shaping the future Romanian elites with a European orientation. The College also intends to develop various educational partnerships of European type and level, whose purpose is to achieve a successful educational path; to cooperate with prestigious institutions at national and international level, namely European, in order to effectively combine local traditions with national and universal values; to promote positive policies in relation to the community by implementing a “co-participatory democracy”.



Our mission is to **promote excellence through and within education** in terms of added value and created value, by developing every pupil’s potential. We are a European component of the Romanian school system. For us, education is understood as a value for the learner, and educational efforts are focused on learning: know, do, apply, be. To this end, we have in mind:

- ✓ Training pupils, through a *transverse approach*, in key skills areas:
 - Communication in the mother tongue
 - Communication in foreign languages
 - Mathematical literacy and basic skills in science and technology.
- ✓ Educating future citizens in a spirit of respect for the opinion of people who think, act and live otherwise, by virtue of understanding social and legislative changes;
- ✓ Growing the desire to learn now and in the future

Eminescu’s spirit is defined by **intercultural dialogue**, by unhampered participation in partnership activities, in local, regional, national and international projects. Our pupils’ involvement in activities of international scope led to understanding and appreciating multiculturalism, giving them opportunities for affirmation at European level. The increase in our College’s prestige came as a consequence of this, its image being promoted both nationally and internationally, thereby on the one hand improving the relations with institutional bodies and local authorities, and on the other hand, drawing the local community’s attention on some outstanding results achieved by our pupils guided by an exceptional teaching staff. Projects worth mentioning:

- The College’s theatre group - *Dramatis Personae*;
- The Comenius multilateral partnership *Walking in each other’s shoes* COM-13-PM-673-MM-DE

“OCTAVIAN GOGA” NATIONAL COLLEGE, SIBIU

The “Octavian Goga” National College in Sibiu was awarded the “European School” title at the five successive editions it attended. The College’s mission is to ensure **“to young people, through quality education, the development of intellectual abilities and the training of key skills to enable them to successfully integrate in the knowledge society”**.

We promote open dialogue between teacher and pupil, which requires the pupils’ spontaneity and open-mindedness, inquisitive spirit and curiosity in order to solve problems. The European values promoted by our college in all its activities are: *individual freedom, tolerance and solidarity*, all of them figuring in the activities conducted by our college.

The large scale projects carried out by the college fall under the Comenius and Erasmus+ European programmes. We coordinated the Comenius bilateral project “Myths Reloaded” (2009-2011) and were partners in the Comenius multilateral project G.R.E.E.N. (2012-2015). There are two ongoing *Erasmus+* projects of strategic partnership between schools, namely “Sustainable Consumption and Production” (2015-2017) and UNION (2016-2018). College pupils and teachers were also involved in a seven eTwinning projects.

Another important project is the PLATO International Education Project, under which participants from five countries attend annual meetings on different subjects; our college is a partner in this self-financed project since 2003. Other exchanges of experience held by our college included collaborations with schools in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Poland and Greece.

Pupils and teachers also participated in POSDRU projects such as “MaST Networking” (2011) “School of the Future” (2012), “Career Caravan” (2012), as well as projects organised by the International Student Organisation AIESEC such as “Youth Communication” and “Educating Money” (2012-2013), GROW (2011-present), European Youth Parliament Romania (2011).

An activity with a significant impact on our college was participating in the “U4energy” pan-European contest organized by the European Commission under the “Intelligent Energy Europe” programme. Our college’s campaign, *Goga4Energy*, won the European award for **The best school campaign on energy efficiency**, awarded on 22 November 2011 in Brussels.

Under the Erasmus+ project **“Sustainable Consumption and Production”**, teachers and pupils from the six participating countries are currently developing an intellectual product as an **interactive guide for teaching methods based on modern technological applications**, methods which will be applied during classes and extracurricular activities.



European Award Ceremony in the presence of the EU Commissioner for Energy Mr Günther OETTINGER, 22 November 2011, Brussels

“ȘTEFAN PROCOPIU” UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL, VASLUI

The “Stefan Procopiu” Upper Secondary School was founded in 1972 and has distinguished itself as one of the top secondary schools in the Vaslui county. To this day, the school proved to be an educational institution providing high quality services both in terms of the educational process and the material equipment.

Our school is a beneficiary of the Leonardo da Vinci mobility project “**Repairing automatic transmission defects**”. Between 28 April and 11 May 2014, the school underwent an internship at the Vocational School in Koblenz, Germany, our partner in running European projects for more than 10 years. Participation in this project has had a positive impact on our personal and professional development, as we are now more confident with regard to the access to the labour market.

Another mobility involving our school was the Leonardo da Vinci project held in Poland between 21 May and 10 June 2012 and titled “**Using specialized software for designing clothing patterns**”; the project was funded by the European Commission and supported by the National Agency for Community Programmes in Education and Vocational Training. During the project, pupils gained new skills such as: better communication in English, better capacity for teamwork, initiative and adaptation to new situations, accountability for the activities carried out, intercultural dialogue, etc.

Through partnerships with schools in other countries, the “Stefan Procopiu” Upper Secondary School enjoys visibility at European level. Between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2016, the school undertook a strategic partnership of schools under the **ERASMUS+** programme, titled “**Skills for Life: Literacy**” (**SLL**) (Reference No. 2014-1-RO01-KA201-002713). The partnership is coordinated by our school. The partners are four schools in Bulgaria, Turkey, Italy and Greece.



MEDIA PARTNERS

