

opinion

The modern-day European Union and the objective to build a resilient future

In the recent [State of the European Union](#) (EU) speech, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said in her opening remarks that *“many feel they have stopped living, while the world has rapidly evolved”*. This statement characterised an unprecedented period in our recent history – that of an ongoing pandemic – and signalled how the crisis was felt by people around the world.

While social distancing and disease risk mitigation measures have reduced mobility and global dynamics, extraordinary developments in the world of science have led to the launch and implementation of the vaccination campaign, which helped economies to unlock and recover. In relation to this, ... p. 2



events

EIR continues the series of events dedicated to the Conference on the Future of Europe

On September 28, the European Institute of Romania, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized the online debate “The post-pandemic economy”.

The event was attended by the following guests: **Mihaela Ștefan-Simion**, Director General, Department for the European Union, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; **Siegfried Mureșan**, Member of the European Parliament, European People’s Party (EPP); **Alina Bârgăoanu**, professor, PhD, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, president of the Administrative Board, European Institute of Romania; **Daniel Dăianu**, academician, president of the Fiscal Council, professor, PhD, National School of Political and Administrative Studies; **Gabriela Drăgan**, professor, PhD, Bucharest University of Economic Studies; **Ciprian Stănescu**, president of Social Innovation Solutions; **Laura Marinaș**, associate professor PhD, Bucharest University of Economic Studies; **Florian Neagu**, Deputy Director, Financial Stability Department, National Bank of Romania. The debate was moderated by **Eliza Vaș**, expert within the European Studies Unit, European Institute of Romania.

The event is part of the series dedicated to the **Conference on the Future of Europe**. The main purpose of the event was to promote the debate on the future of Europe and to raise citizens’ awareness of political, economic, and social developments. Furthermore, the event aimed to analyse the effects of the pandemic on economic policies, as well as the implications of the health crisis on contemporary economic reasoning.

In this context, we can mention among the topics discussed: the importance of dialogue, ensuring a space for citizens to share their opinions within the events included in the Conference on the Future of Europe; recovery and resilience processes of the European economies and societies during and in the post-pandemic times; the need to prepare the European Union for future crises.

The recording of the debate is available on the European Institute of Romania [YouTube](#)’s channel. For more details, please access [EIR’s website](#), Events section.

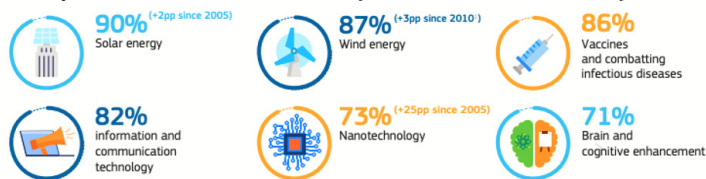
Laura Ștefania Anton
Communication Unit

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[continued from page 1] it is worth mentioning the results of the Special Eurobarometer published in September 2021, where vaccine-related technologies and innovation were seen by 86% of respondents as having a positive effect on their lives over the next 20 years (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Technologies and innovations Europeans think will have a positive effect on their way of life in the next 20 years



Source: Special Eurobarometer 516 (European Commission), 2021.

In last year’s speech, von der Leyen mentioned the “fragility of our world” and the desire to build a European Health Union, while this September, she provided evidence of the actions implemented at European level and the results achieved: more than **70% of adults in the EU are fully vaccinated and more than 130 countries worldwide have had access to doses donated by the Union**. Moreover, she also announced the creation of a new health preparedness and resilience mission for the whole of the EU and launched the proposal of a new European Care Strategy.

In addition to the health policy issues, areas related to **digital transformation and the fight against climate change** have been prioritised in the discourse. An important step in realising the strategic autonomy of the Union relies in the future European Chips Act, which would counteract the consequences of the global semi-conductors’ crisis. For example, a modern automobile contains **between 1500 and 3000 computer chips** which ensure functionalities related to engine performance, safety settings or entertainment systems. As the European Union ranks among the top international automotive manufacturers, the semiconductor crisis can lead to significant financial losses in the coming years. [Statistics](#) show that in the first year of the pandemic (2020) **car production in the European Union shrunk by 23.3% compared to 2019**.

Regarding the focus on mitigating the effects of climate change, von der Leyen said that a **new Social Climate Fund to tackle energy poverty will be created and a price will be set for pollution**. She also recalled the support to be provided to third countries for the protection of their biodiversity, i.e., the financial allocations to be used by the Union to support global cooperation on climate action. Future-funded energy transition projects include the **creation of a market for green hydrogen connecting the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea**. This investment in Europe and Africa will be part of the new EU connectivity strategy, which will be based on transparency and good governance. We can consider that the strategy will represent the European offer to third countries that have previously been targeted by the Chinese investment policy.

The presentation by the President of the Commission underlined the issues of **stability in the European neighbourhood**, the **threats faced by the EU** (hybrid attack was explicitly mentioned with the aim of destabilising Europe) and **European defence** (including closer cooperation between intelligence services, which could also lead to the **creation of a common situational awareness centre**). She also recalled the new pact on migration and asylum and spoke about the **protection of European values** (notably the rule of law, freedom of expression and democracy).

The priorities expressed in the speech are also linked to the developments presented in the [2021 Strategic Foresight Report: The EU’s capacity and freedom to act](#), also published this September. The report detailed **four main global trends affecting the EU’s capacity and freedom of action**: climate change and other environmental challenges, digital hyperconnectivity and technological transformation, pressures on democracy and democratic values, changes in global order and demography.

The report also includes **ten lines of action to be pursued with the purpose of implementing the European Union’s 2050 vision under the umbrella of open strategic autonomy**. Among these we can mention ensuring the sustainability and resilience of food and health systems; securing affordable and decarbonised energy; strengthening the capacity to manage data, artificial intelligence and cutting-edge technologies; securing and diversifying supply of critical raw materials; ensuring first-mover global position in standard-setting; strengthening security, defence and access to space; and strengthening the resilience of democratic institutions.

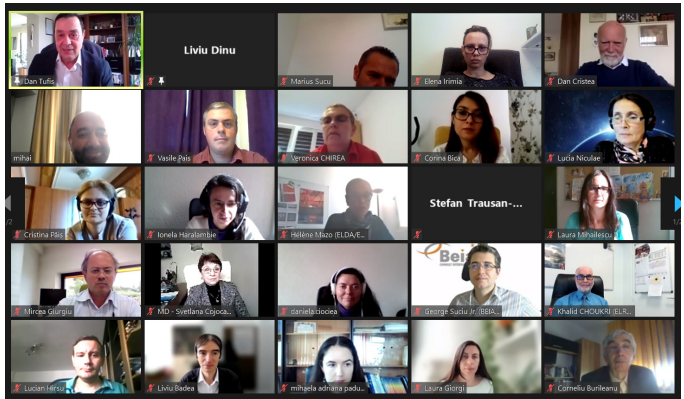
Open strategic autonomy and resilience are concepts that have been increasingly used in policy and strategic foresight documents of the European Union over the past year and a half. However, it is not clear what the scope of the two terms would include and what type of understanding exists among the Member States. The forerunner of strategic autonomy can be seen as the European sovereignty invoked in the President of the European Commission’s speech from 2018, Jean-Claude Juncker, while resilience has been a concept used in the past to characterise institutional and capacity-building processes specific to foreign policy and development aid. In the absence of a dialogue on open strategic autonomy and strategic resilience, there is a risk that these concepts are either misunderstood or misinterpreted by citizens, and the objective of building a resilient future is just an institutional concern and not an objective also shared by the people.

Eliza Vaş
Editor-in-chief Newsletter

The third ELRC workshop organised in Romania: the status and the prospects for language technologies for the Romanian language

Romania, together with the other members of the European Union plus Iceland and Norway, participates in the ELRC (European Language Resource Coordination) programme, initiated in 2015 under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and currently operating under the Digital Europe Programme.

Workshops are held regularly, in all participating countries, to raise awareness of the importance of the Digital Single Market, which should be equally accessible in the language of each country. The connection and interoperability of public services in EU Member States, Iceland and Norway can contribute significantly not only to increasing the efficiency of public administration, but also to improving the competitiveness of the business environment and the citizens' quality of life.



In Romania, the first workshop took place on 23 March 2016 and the second one on 1 November 2018. While the first two workshops focused on the presentation of the ELRC programme, *eTranslation* and the role of public institutions in the Member States, the 3rd ELRC workshop intended to emphasise the importance of the collaboration between users and service providers so that language technologies can develop as much as possible in the era of artificial intelligence.

The 3rd ELRC workshop in Romania, held online on 29 September 2021, was organised by the ELRC Consortium, the Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence “Mihai Drăgănescu” within the Romanian Academy and the European Institute of Romania.

Experts from academia, public institutions and the private sphere discussed the potential of language technologies and artificial intelligence, with a focus on the language technologies developed in Romania and the European Union, and the ways they are used in the public sector in Romania. Moreover, the workshop included a demonstration of language technologies developed at national level for the Romanian language. The *eTranslation* platform, developed by the European Commission, providing free machine translation services to both public institutions and SMEs, was also presented.

The importance of data for the development of top language technologies was also emphasised and an overview of the existing practices and the challenges in the creation, management and sharing of language data was provided. The information presented during the workshop was abundant and complex. The debates revealed that collaboration between stakeholders should increase and media coverage should be extended for both existing solutions and challenges in the field. For more information, please refer to the presentations given at this workshop on the ELRC website, in the [event section](#).

Achieving language equality for Romanian in the Digital Age requires greater efforts, but we believe that every institution and every citizen can contribute to the development of language technologies through the correct use of the national language, including in the digital environment, by collecting, donating and reusing language resources.

Laura Mihăilescu
ELRC Public Services National Anchor Point

2011-2021: The first decade of the European External Action Service

On 1 December 2020, European External Action Service (EEAS) celebrated 10 years since the establishment of the institution. In this article we will present the legal framework that underpins the creation and functioning of the service, tasks and structure, and key moments from the first 10 years of activity.

The legal framework initiating EEAS was adopted after the signature (2007) and the ratification (2009) of the Lisbon Treaty and the service became operational on 1 January 2011. Under the Lisbon Treaty, several European institutions were involved in the design of the service: the Council, the Parliament and the Commission. The process' coordination was attributed to the High Representative, who, after consulting the Parliament and receiving the Commission's approval, would submit the proposal for establishment to the Council. This extensive consultation of several stakeholders aimed at ensuring the transparency of the decision-making process – how the institution will be structured, who and how will fill up the administrative positions, hence the internal part of the organisation, as well as its relationship with the other institutional branches of the Union¹.

The main role of the EEAS is to raise EU's profile internationally while promoting its values and interests. Although it appears to have a general purpose, the EEAS provides sufficient space for acting, acting as European Union's diplomatic

¹ EEAS, Creation of the EEAS (25/11/2019), https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/3648/creation-eeas_en (15.09.2021).

service. This entails a coordinated response to the crises and issues that emerged or will emerge at international scale. In addition to the High Representative, the service assists both the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission and/or other Commissioners in their activities related to the field of foreign affairs. The service is in close contact with the European Parliament, given the Declaration on Political Accountability, and provides support to MEPs on external meetings².



#EEAS10
2011–2021
EUROPEAN UNION
EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

The service's headquarter is in Brussels, while it is also represented internationally through EU delegations and offices, located either in states or linked to international organisations. As of 1 September 2021, the service has a new organisational chart to make its work more efficient³. The close relationship between the High Representative and the service, as the main channel by which they can implement and enforce decisions internationally, is also reflected in the administrative structure. The service is subordinated to the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, a position currently held by Josep Borrell. This is based on the fact that the High Representative is the architect of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). The service is headed by a secretary-general, assisted by three deputy secretaries: one for Economic and Global Issues, one for CSDP and Crisis Response and another for Political Affairs. This activity is further divided by geographic location with the following areas of action: Africa, Americas, Asia and Pacific, Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa. There is also a department for Global Agenda and Multilateral Relations. The Policy Department covers various issues such as: respect for human rights; promotion of democracy; development; migration and crisis response⁴. Nine European Union Special Representatives ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach to issues requiring particular attention. They play an active role in ensuring “peace, stability and rule of law” in the regions where they operate. The geographical areas or themes for which special representatives have been appointed are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central Asia, the Horn of Africa, Human Rights, Kosovo, the Middle East Peace Process, the Sahel, the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues.

The first High Representative of the Union, Catherine Ashton, prioritised: the launch of the EEAS, the relationship with the neighbourhood and the relationship with strategic partners. The initiation of the service's proceedings took place in an extremely turbulent period for the Union's Southern neighbourhood, during the Arab Spring. The second High Representative, Federica Mogherini, is probably best-known for her actions to publish in 2016 the European Union Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, which followed the 2003 European Security Strategy. The document was adopted soon after the crisis in Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014. According to Mogherini, other important moments during her mandate were: the signature of the Iran nuclear agreement and the establishment of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)⁵. The third, and the current High Representative of the Union, Josep Borrell, had to find solutions in a world deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the European External Action Service, the EU continues to demonstrate its support for a multilateral and rules-based order. The events and crises of this past decade have shown the need for a common EU voice on global affairs, where increasingly diverse and complex threats such as pandemics, political instability, and heightened inequality are becoming more visible. Therefore, amplified joint action is needed.

Mihaela-Adriana Pădureanu
European Studies Unit

² EEAS, 2013 Annual Activity Report Ref. Ares(2014)1114497 - 09/04/2014, p. 4 https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/annual_activity_report_2013_en.pdf (15.09.2021).

³ EEAS, Organisation chart of the EEAS (01/09/2021), https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-01-09-eeas_orgchart_0.pdf (15.09.2021).

⁴ EEAS, About the European External Action Service (EEAS) (25/11/2019), https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/82/about-european-external-action-service-eeas_en (15.09.2021).

⁵ EEAS, Debate: The EU in a changing world - Staying on course in troubled waters https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/89786/eeas-10-%E2%80%93-europe-worldwide_en (15.09.2021).

news

Debate on the Future of Europe, with the participation of the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Iulia Matei, and the French Secretary of State for European Affairs, Clément Beaune

On 14 September 2021, the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Iulia Matei, and the French Secretary of State for European Affairs, Clément Beaune, attended a debate with Romanian students about the future of the European Union and the challenges faced. The event was organized by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Embassy in Romania at the Central University Library in Bucharest. The discussions were moderated by Alexandra Iancu, associate professor within the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Bucharest.

During the debate, the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Iulia Matei, **emphasized the need for young people**

to engage in the democratic consultations within the Conference on the Future of Europe. The Romanian official pointed out the importance of the French presidency of the Council of the EU, which will take place in the first half of 2022, a period that will overlap with the conclusions of the Conference. Additionally, Iulia Matei showed that the impact of the health and economic crisis was manifested through the reaffirmation of the significance and relevance of European values, including cohesion, unity and solidarity. Mrs Matei reiterated Romania's support for a coherent and credible EU neighbourhood policy, referring both to the Western Balkans states and the Eastern Partnership countries.



The French Secretary highlighted Romania's contribution to consolidating the European project during the rotating presidency of the Council. **The French official stressed that the decisions taken at the beginning of the sanitary crisis demonstrated the importance of European solidarity**, a principle that will remain fundamental for the post-pandemic economic recovery. Clément Beaune also explained that the democratic debate will continue after the Conference on the Future of Europe, while encouraging the participation of young people in the discussions, as the main beneficiaries of the European integration on medium and long-term.

During the dialogue with the public, the students asked questions on various topics: issues related to the digital transition; the relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the future of the Schengen area, etc. Regarding the double transition, green and digital, Iulia Matei reiterated the European commitment to a fair and equitable process, while Clément Beaune pointed out the transversal character of these transitions. As to the Brexit process and the future of EU-UK relations, the two officials agreed that there are essential areas for ongoing cooperation, including trade or security. The subject of the Schengen area is a topic of interest for both states, Iulia Matei emphasizing the need for a favourable decision on Romania's accession to Schengen.

The debate on the future of Europe, available in French, can be accessed [here](#).

Ionuț-Mircea Marcu
European Studies Unit

The 21st edition of the seminar dedicated to young public policy professionals

This September, the Economic Policy Institute from Bulgaria, with the support of Hanns Seidel Stiftung, the European Commission Representation in Bulgaria, the Central European Initiative, and the Austrian Embassy in Bulgaria, organized the 21st edition of the seminar dedicated to young public policy professionals. The 2021 edition, organized in Albena, Bulgaria, had as main topic: "Exploring Post-COVID Recovery Scenarios for Central and South-Eastern Europe".

The event was joined by 26 participants, who came from European Union Members States, specifically Romania, Bulgaria, and Croatia, as well as from the Western Balkans countries. They were selected through a competitive system, according to their motivation and professional experience. The European Institute of Romania was represented by Ionuț-Mircea Marcu, expert within the European Studies Unit. The lecturers were both from academia, as well as from the non-governmental sector, being well-known personalities within their fields of expertise, providing the participants not only academic knowledge, but the opportunity to take part in debates regarding the seminar's topics.

During the five days of the seminar, there were discussions on topics such as: the impact of the pandemic on the Central and South-Eastern European countries; the concept of strategic autonomy and its implications; the *NextGenerationEU* instrument; the role of civic education for good governance (including in Western Balkans countries); the future of the Enlargement Policy; the geopolitical position of the Central and South-Eastern European Countries in the context of a rapidly-evolving international system, etc. Even though some lecturers could not attend the seminar in person, given the pandemic conditions, the good use of modern communication tools showed that the organizers successfully created a suitable environment for debates between lecturers and participants.

Regarding the impact of the pandemic for the Central and South-Eastern countries, it was mentioned the current high level of uncertainty, as well as the numerous challenges faced by the region. However, as it was pointed out during the discussions on the *NextGenerationEU*, the region can benefit from the economic recovery process, which should focus on the transition to resilient, green, and digital economies. The focus of the European Commission on the evaluation process of **National Recovery and Resilience Plans** was not to intervene in the national economic objectives, but to



support the Member States in elaborating plans in accordance to the post-pandemic economic transition.

Among the most important topics of the seminar was the future of the enlargement process in the Western Balkans. Regardless of the individual positions, optimistic or pessimistic ones, the participants and lecturers alike concluded that the future of the Western Balkans countries is within the European project. This topic has been addressed from different perspectives, including in relation to the interests and actions of other geopolitical actors in the region while stressing **on the importance of a clear and coherent European path for the Western Balkans countries**. In the panel dedicated to geopolitics, the lectures addressed in a global context the evolutions within the Central and South-Eastern European countries, characterized mostly by increased uncertainty and competition. The geopolitical challenges faced by the region were underlined, including in relation with the People's Republic of China or other actors on the international arena.

The program also included two team exercises, facilitated by the organizers. The first of them allowed the participants to prepare a stakeholder map, regarding a given public policy proposal and topic of interest. The objective of this session was to enhance the participants' critical analysis skills, a very relevant aspect in their professional activity. The second exercise, implemented across three panels, entailed the preparation and presentation by the participants of **four scenarios, related to the future of the European Union, the Central and South-Eastern European countries, and the Western Balkans states**, in a medium-term perspective. Starting from a methodology explained by the organizers, and using specific indicators, the participants argued their vision regarding these scenarios, the importance of the human aspect in avoiding pessimistic evolution being one of the main conclusions of the exercise.

The 2021 edition of the seminar dedicated to young public policy professional was a great opportunity for analysis and critical debates, related to both present challenges faced by Central and Eastern European countries, as well as the scenarios for the future. Moreover, the seminar allowed for professional and personal networking, both between lecturers and participants, as well as within the participants' group, that will certainly lead to many common projects and activities.

Ionuț-Mircea Marcu
European Studies Unit

publications

Analysis of the EU's assistance to Central Asia during the pandemic

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Union has focused primarily on protecting the health and well-being of the European citizens. However, a significant dimension of the European measures was the support granted to external partners to manage the effects of the health crisis.

The European Union's assistance to Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) in the context of the pandemic has been a means of demonstrating the EU's capacity to be a responsible donor and partner in the region. Emergency support was also a test for the new EU-Central Asia cooperation strategy, presented in 2019, which marked a more flexible, less politicized and dialogue-based approach to inter-regional relations.

EU support to Central Asian countries addressed both urgent needs for access to health products and financial assistance for managing short- and medium-term socio-economic effects of the pandemic. Thus, EU Delegations in the field provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to medical staff, border workers, and educational institutions, while experts from the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence shared good practices and medical protocols with national authorities in Central Asia. Moreover, following the vaccines' approval by the European Medicines Agency, the EU and the Member States became the second largest contributor, after the United States, to the COVAX initiative. Sufficient doses of vaccine have been allocated to immunize up to 20% of the citizens from the eligible Central Asian states, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. With a view to the long-term recovery, the EU has allocated, through the Team Europe initiative, 124 million euro to regional programmes aimed at strengthening national health systems, as well as national preparedness in crisis context.

The history of cooperation between the two regions, as well as the experience of flexibility and accountability during the Covid-19 pandemic, provides a basis for a series of recommendations meant to strengthen inter-regional relations. Cooperation with other international donors with a similar agenda is a tool already used by the European Union, which can be improved to support more effective and wider sectoral interventions in Central Asia. European priorities for post-pandemic recovery are compatible with the needs of Central Asian partners, and the EU's ability to support sectoral reforms represents its regional advantage, but flexibility is needed to adapt to local needs, including those in times of crisis. The regional approach, promoted by the EU since the beginning of its activity in the region, has more potential now than before given the openness of the Central Asian authorities. The EU Special Representative for Central Asia can support local accountability and effective implementation. Member States can make a significant contribution to sectoral dialogues and technical assistance, and the experience of the politico-economic transition of Central and Eastern European countries, including Romania, is an effective means of building a peer-to-peer dialogue with the five Central Asian states.

The policy brief titled "European Union in Central Asia during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Crisis Response and Future Recovery" displays an extensive analysis of the conclusions presented in this article.

The policy brief, available in English, can be accessed [here](#).

Ana-Maria Anghelescu
European Studies Unit

Book launch: “Sustainable Romania: concepts and supporting instruments for a circular transformation of the Romanian economy”

On 15 September 2021, Club Romania launched the 6th volume of the Documentary Notes series at a thematic conference titled “Romania and the geopolitics of climate change”. The event was opened by the founder of Club Romania, Marius Stoian, who stated that “the volume is trying to provide a more complete picture of the impact that the Green Revolution – which aims to save the planet and connect with the digital one – generates, not only for the parameters of our economy, but for the entire social and political life as we see them today.” The research brought together more than 100 authors from all over the country, and the conference included 20 short interventions on the written materials.



The 6th volume was coordinated by Ana Maria Mihăescu, Mihai Toader-Pasti and Adriana Băițan, and the European Institute of Romania supported the research process by disseminating the results of the 2018 strategy and policy study on circular economy, as well as through new contributions developed by Mihai Sebe and me (European Studies Unit). I wrote a contribution on circular economy and the principles for building a new economic system, in which I analysed related definitions; associated types of discourse; principles and their applicability; and concrete examples of transition to the circular economy. The article by Mihai Sebe, Head of the European Studies Unit, focused on the analysis of Eurobarometer surveys between 2007 and 2019 on the attitude of European and Romanian citizens towards environmental issues.

It should be noted that the volume includes various contributions: sustainable development in response to climate challenges; global trends in sustainability (e.g., the number of companies reporting on sustainable growth globally increased over the past 30 years from 17 to 80%); international trade and circular economy; the European Union and the European Green Deal; the implementation of ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) in the business environment; innovation in the packaging industry; the guarantee-return system and its implementation in Romania; the recovery of electronics and household waste; the cement and concrete industry; green skills and jobs, etc.

Eliza Vaș
European Studies Unit

Analysis of professional training needs in the Romanian public administration

The last trimester of 2021 is bringing to our attention a renewed analysis of professional training needs derived from central and local administration. The process is taking place as a natural follow-up on the initiatives undertaken by the EIR’s Training and Projects Unit in the previous years. The main goal is to connect the particular traits of public servants’ work to the training opportunities offered by the EIR after carefully considering the new regulations/requests within the field of European affairs. As a result of the analysis of professional training needs of 2018 it was decided that two new courses should be included the following year, namely “Introduction in European Affairs” and “The legal system of the European Union”. These newly introduced courses brought into discussion the essential elements referring to the EU’s foundation and the functioning of its representative institutions, as well as the specificities of its legal system. The issue of protecting fundamental rights within the EU was addressed as well.

In the same way, the feedback received from public institutions after an analysis of training needs led to implementing other two courses last year, namely “Whistleblowing in the public service” and “Cyber security challenges in European Affairs”. The updated analysis of professional training needs will begin this October. A set of questionnaires will be sent to a considerable number of public institutions, some of which are already long-term partners of the EIR. The data collecting process will take place in December, while their interpretation and the new training offer will be finalised at the beginning of 2022.

The EIR is considering not only the subjects of interest that can lead to the improvement of public servants’ professional abilities in the field of European affairs, but also their interest in taking the newly introduced online courses (given the COVID-19 pandemic). As before, the collected data will be used in establishing the Institute’s new training offer after thoroughly considering all suggestions received from respondents, in order to confirm and diversify current options.

Iulia Vladimirov
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