

activity

## Highlights of 2021 in the activity of the European Institute of Romania

During 2021 we continued to feel the multidimensional effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Marked at the European level by key moments such as the adoption of support packages for recovery and resilience or the launching of the Conference on the future of Europe, 2021 made us reflect more often on Romania’s place and role within the European Union, as well as on the consolidation and the future of the European integration project.

Within the European Institute of Romania (EIR), we continued to organise activities and projects in the spirit and with the aim of promoting the European values. **The communication activity** within EIR was pursued in 2021 still online, and the Communication Unit organised 12 [events](#) attended by over 650 participants. A new series of debates was launched, under the generic title *Dialogues@EIR*, aiming at discussing current European and national topics of interest in order to promote European values. Four such events were organised, on circular economy, the transatlantic relations, gender equality, and digitalisation. The ideas expressed by the experts invited within the dialogue on digitalisation were published as a [policy brief](#) (available in Romanian).



In the context of the official launch, on 9 May 2021, of the **Conference on the future of Europe**, EIR organised, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), a series of events for promoting at national level the Conference and for encouraging Romanian citizens to participate to the debates taking place as part of the Conference. Within this framework, we organised in June a conference on the topic *“What is the future we want for the European Union at home and in the world?”*, followed by a series of three debates on economy, education and health, organised between September and November. Additionally, the annual conference of EIR, organised with the support of the... p. 2

opinion

in this issue

### Assessing the achievements of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Slovenia began its second presidency of the European Union Council in July 2021 with an ambitious set of priorities in four main areas, concluding the trio formed with Germany and Portugal. The Presidency gave significant attention to the issues of recovery and resilience, since the EU is still dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the green and digital transition, together with preparations of Glasgow COP26 summit were also priorities on the agenda, followed closely by the ongoing Conference on the Future of Europe. Slovenia had the ambition to contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law as one of the common European values. In the area of foreign policy, the specific Slovenian interest was the discussion on enlargement, and to pursue this effort, a special EU-Western Balkan Summit was planned. In line with the fourth priority on security and stability objectives, the ambition was, at least on paper, to make progress in the negotiations on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

As it inevitably happens, several unexpected events created additional challenges for the Presidency, notably the withdrawal from the Afghanistan and the migration crisis on the Belarus border with several Member States.

- 6 **French Presidency of the Council of the European Union**
- 8 **The Future of Europe from the perspective of European Union’s Neighbouring Countries**

... p. 5

## activity

[continued from page 1] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of the debates within the Conference on the Future of Europe, focused on “Romania’s sustainable economic recovery in the context of the twin transition - green and digital”. The ideas expressed by the invited experts and the participating citizens were the basis for the document titled [“Progress Report - The Conference on the Future of Europe: Views from Romanian citizens”](#), published on EIR’s website.

Partnership relations remain an important element in promoting and developing our institutional image. We are proud of the partnership concluded in 2021 with the **Robert Schuman Foundation (Paris)**, which materialised with the debate “Towards a more united Europe”, organised on 20 October. We continued other partnerships as well, such as the one with the European Parliament’s Liaison Office in Bucharest, and we explored also other cooperation opportunities, which we hope to fully develop in the near future.

The members of EIR team had numerous participation at current thematic events, including as speakers and moderators. The whole team contributed to increase EIR’s visibility and to promote the results of our activities, by sharing the news published on the institutional webpage and the social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)).

With regards to the **research activity**, the European Studies Unit proposed and coordinated five studies included in the project **Strategy and Policy Studies (SPOS)**, aimed at supporting public administration in the decision-making process and in the positioning within the negotiation frameworks at national and European levels. The topics focused on *the future of the European Union, the strategic resilience of the European Union, the European Green Deal, the post-pandemic economic recovery, and the consolidation of EU - US relations*.

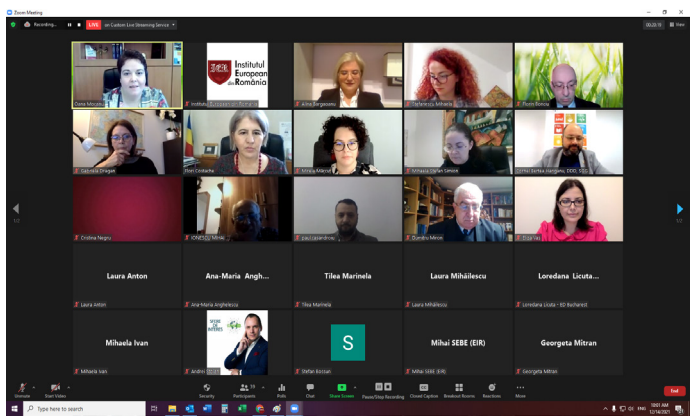
In 2021, EIR became a full member of the **Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA)**, being currently the only partner institution of its kind in Romania. TEPSA is the first trans-European research network in the field of European affairs, being an international non-profit association. EIR’s membership to TEPSA will provide opportunities to consolidate its relations at the European level and will bring to the forefront the Romanian perspective on the European agenda, with the purpose of strengthening the European project, cohesion and unity between Member States.

The scientific journal of EIR, **Romanian Journal of European Affairs**, included in 2021 articles on current European topics, such as: the impact of the new technologies on economic and monetary systems, migration, security, countering disinformation, environmental challenges, digital single market, Brexit and its effects, EU as a global actor etc. In the two editions were published 17 articles by authors from Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Spain or Latvia, which were promoted also through [RJEAs Facebook page](#), followed by over 1300 persons.

During 2021, **EIR’s Newsletter** proposed two interviews with Romanian diplomats in key positions: H.E. Mrs. Luminița Teodora Odobescu, Permanent Representative of Romania to the European Union (January 2021) and Mr. Cosmin Boiangiu, Executive Director of the European Labour Authority (ELA) (March 2021). Moreover, the May 2021 edition included an editorial signed by Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, regarding the medium- and long-term perspectives of evolution of the European Union. The six editions of EIR’s Newsletter included information on current activities of EIR in various areas, as well as opinion articles on relevant events at the European and international levels.

In EIR’s **micro-studies collection**, the experts from the European Studies Unit, together with Romanian and foreign researchers proposed papers on various topics, such as the “hydraulic civilization” in the context of climate change, the transatlantic relations, the State of the Union speech, digital transformation in Romania, the assistance provided by the European Union to the Central Asian states in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European perspectives of the Western Balkan states, doctors’ migration in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. A consistent team effort was put into a collective working paper, where 23 experts from 9 countries from European Union’s neighbourhood provided their insights and opinions into their own countries’ relations with the EU in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

In December 2021 was finalised the implementation of the project **“A Key Access to EU Rights - EUREKA”**, which focused on promoting and facilitating the mobility of citizens in the European Union, by using a series of innovative initiatives. The results of the project’s activities were presented to the Romanian public in the framework of a dissemination event organised in October 2021, as well as within the final conference of the project, held in November 2021. In the project three new instruments to support the EU mobile citizens were developed: [The Handbook of Good practices titled “EU Mobile Citizens go digital”](#), including a series of recommendations for facilitating free movement, intended for decision



## activity

---

makers at local and national levels, as well as the [Key4mobility](#) portal and the *Key4mobility* mobile app, available in [Google Play](#) and [AppStore](#), addressed to citizens interested in mobility within the EU and including specific information on 5 major sections.

With regards to the **training** activity, although the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures against its spread prevented us to restart the in-person activities, the **training team** continued to provide online courses through Zoom communication platform. During 2021, EIR's training team organised 15 sessions of online courses, among which the subsidised ones focused on various topics, such as: *Introduction in European affairs, European Union's normative system, Norms and procedures of legislative technique, Integrity warning in public administration, Waste recovery engineering*. The paying courses proposed topics such as: *Diplomacy and protocol* (organised in 4 sessions, among which one at the request of Permanent Electoral Authority's employees), *Cybersecurity challenges in European affairs*, as well as *Norms and procedures of legislative technique* (for Competition Council's employees).

During 2021, EIR's experts were involved in the **implementation of previously contracted projects**. With regards to **Network of Eurofound Correspondents: Romania**, the priority was to record and assess the major multi-sectoral impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the life and working conditions of EU Member States' citizens. The 32 deliverables prepared referred especially to evolutions in various aspects of the social and economic life - including workplace practices, social dialogue, gender equality, and access to public services - which will have a significant influence on the EU's post-pandemic recovery speed and on a successful transition towards a green and digital future.

Through "**EuranetPlus**", EIR partnered with the Romanian Broadcasting Society in producing and promoting information on current European topics. During 2021, EIR submitted to Radio Romania International (RRI) a series of articles which were published on the partner's website, and received for publication on its website or Europe Direct Bucharest Centre's website a significant number of articles written by RRI editors within the *Alo, Brussels?* column.

During 2021, the **Translation Coordination Unit** continued to provide translations in Romanian, linguistic and juridical revisions of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and of documents necessary to the Romanian state as a member of the United Nations (UN), as well as other types of documents (usually specific to EIR). The section [Bulletin of ECHR case-law](#) (available in Romanian), from the Publication menu, was completed with six Bulletins, which include ECHR's judgements and decisions against Romania issued in December 2020, a summary of those issued in 2020, as well as cases communicated between January and September 2021. In order to raise awareness regarding the translation and linguistic revision activity of the EIR team, increased attention was given to developing some sections from EIR's website and promoting the activities through social media channels, including the EIR Newsletter.

Last, but not least, I would like to mention that in 2021 the European Institute of Romania continued to host **EUROPE DIRECT (ED) Bucharest Information Centre**, whose activity was renewed until 2025 through a Framework-Agreement of partnership with European Commission's Representation. Despite the difficulties brought about by the pandemic, ED managed to organise 16 events in innovative formats such as forum theatre, world café, workshops, living library, exchange of experience, to which more than 1500 participants from various categories took part: youth, entrepreneurs, NGOs, teachers, disadvantaged people from rural localities from Ilfov area, senior citizens, the general public.

In order to present the main elements regarding the activity pursued by the European Institute of Romania in 2021 we prepared a dashboard (*Table 1*).

I would like to thank all my colleagues for the efforts they put into making the EIR's activities continue smoothly and develop in these harsh and uncertain conditions determined by the sanitary context.

We invite you to follow our activity in 2022 as well, in order to be informed about the European debates and the national perspectives on European Union's policies.

**Oana-Mihaela Mocanu**  
EIR Director General

**Table 1.** European Institute of Romania's activities in numbers



**COMMUNICATION**

- 12 events, among which the series of Dialogues@EIR and the events in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe
- 650 participants
- 6 editions of the Newsletter with over 900 subscribers
- 415 000 visits on the website from Romania, Republic of Moldova, US, China, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Bulgaria, France
- 10 250 likes on social media (EIR Facebook)



**RESEARCH**

- 5 SPOS studies
- 5 micro-studies (Working Paper and Policy Brief)
- 4 Opinions
- 24 articles, analyses and presentations on European topics
- 2 RJEAs including 17 articles with authors from Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Spain or Latvia, promoted on RJEAs Facebook page with over 1 300 followers



**TRAINING**

- 15 courses
- 386 participants
- 58% from public administration, 23% from private sector and 19% from academia



**PROJECTS**

- EUREKA: : The Handbook of Good practices titled “EU Mobile Citizens go digital” Key4mobility portal and Key4mobility mobile app, available in Google Play and AppStore;
- EURANET Plus: 44 articles of EIR experts published on the website of Romanian Broadcasting Society and 51 articles Alo Bruxelles? published on the websites of EIR and Europe Direct Bucharest
- Eurofound: 32 deliverables regarding the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the social and economic life in EU Member States



**TRANSLATIONS, REVISION AND TERMINOLOGY**

- 3 905.65 standard pages translated
- 3 901.26 standard pages revised
- 459 terminological entries
- 40 articles for promoting and raising awareness about the linguistic and/or juridical fields



**EUROPE DIRECT BUCHAREST CENTRE**

- 16 events
- 1 500 participants
- 6 758 social media fans



Copyright: Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

*[continued from page 1]* Still, the assessment of the Presidency by the Prime Minister<sup>1</sup>, as well as the Official Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>2</sup> conclude that several major achievements were reached.

One might agree that, at technical level, the Slovenian Presidency performed well: after all, more than 1400 working meetings were organised in Brussels, and 222 events took place in Slovenia; 40 meetings were held at the ministerial level, out of which 18 in Slovenia. Major progress was made in the health area, where the strengthening of the role of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) was achieved, along with the establishment of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). The Council confirmed the proposal for the Directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, and unanimously endorsed a general approach on the Digital Services Act, as well as on the Digital Markets Act. A number of other dossiers in the area of digitalisation and cyber security were either closed or at least successfully moved forward.

A lot of work was carried out in the field of green transition and environment, yet, as may have seem expected, the progress has been slow. In the Fit for 55 package, several issues were opened<sup>3</sup>, but will inevitably require a significant effort by the next presidencies to reach an operational agreement of all of the Member States. Nevertheless, the Slovenian Presidency has prepared the EU mandate for the COP26 climate change conference with a common EU position.

It is not surprising that the official Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not discuss the issues related to the fourth priority on New Pact on Migration and Asylum, where the Slovenian government's position is much closer to the idea of "fortress Europe" than to a more open and humane migration policy. This resulted in not much progress in this area<sup>4</sup>.

The Slovenian priority of reopening the discussion on enlargement, especially towards the Western Balkan countries, can be viewed as only partially successful. While the EU-Western Balkans Summit was organised in October 2021, the efforts of the Presidency to agree on a schedule and offer the prospective members a more tangible commitment, were not supported by the Member States, and only a very soft statement on continuation of the process was agreed upon. This has been a disappointment for Slovenia<sup>5</sup>.

In assessing the achievements of the Presidency, one cannot but point out some of the negative events which occurred during the past six months. If technically the Presidency was carried out professionally and the Slovenian public officials were praised for their efficiency, the behaviour of some of the top Slovenian politicians, including the Prime minister, was not always in line with the expected diplomatic behaviour<sup>6</sup>.

Another disappointment with the Presidency experience is the fact that the opportunity to bring the EU and its vast policy fields closer to the Slovenian citizens was not exploited at all. While one has to acknowledge that the work of the Council and therefore of the Presidency is highly complex and requires a significant amount of knowledge on decision-

<sup>1</sup> Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, "Prime Minister Janez Janša presents the achievements of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU in Brussels", Press Release, 17 December 2021, available at <https://slovenian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/prime-minister-janez-jansa-presents-the-achievements-of-the-slovenian-presidency-of-the-council-of-the-eu-in-brussels/>.

<sup>2</sup> Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, "Achievements of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union", available at <https://slovenian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme/results/>.

<sup>3</sup> For further details, see Council of the European Union, "Fit for 55 Package - Overview of progress of the "Fit for 55" package of legislative proposals", 22 November 2021, available at <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13977-2021-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Sebastijan R. Maček, "Slovenia: Progress slow in EU migration pact talks", EurActiv, 16 July 2021, available at <https://www.euractiv.com/section/eu-council-presidency/news/slovenia-progress-slow-in-eu-migration-pact-talks/>.

<sup>5</sup> Aleš Gaube, "Družinski Balkan z Brda odšel brez datuma pridružitve Unij" ["The family Balkans left Brdo without a date to join the Union"], Dnevnik, 6 October 2021, available at <https://www.dnevnik.si/1042974401/slovenija/foto-von-der-leynova-na-brdu-pri-kranju-radi-bi-poslali-sporocilo-da-zahodni-balkan-spada-v-eu>.

<sup>6</sup> Svet24, "Škandal že na začetku slovenskega predsedovanja" ["A scandal at the beginning of the Slovenian presidency"], 2 July 2021, available at <https://novice.svet24.si/clanek/novice/slovenija/60df2de4d6dcf/skandal-ze-na-zacetku-slovenskega-predsedovanja>.

making processes in the EU, the Presidency is an opportunity not only to advertise your country abroad (with several cultural and promotional events organised in Brussels), but also to promote the EU at home. Since this was not given sufficient attention, the Slovenian citizens will remember the Presidency only by the traffic jams and menus published in the yellow press, instead of being able to see the contributions that the EU policies make to their daily lives.

Maja Bučar

Author's bio:

Maja Bučar is a professor and senior researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana. In her research work, she focuses on research, development and innovation strategies and policies at the global, European and national levels as key determinants of national socio-economic development. She has participated in numerous international, European, regional (Central and Eastern Europe, Western Balkan) and national research and consultancy projects. They refer to the area of science and technology policy, national and regional innovation system analyses, as well as country assessments of implementation of development strategies. Professor Bučar is an active member of TEPSA and has been involved in the preparation of the Slovenian Pre-presidency conference.



## French Presidency of the Council of the European Union



Copyright: French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

France took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 1 January 2022, for the 13<sup>th</sup> time, in a trio that also includes the Czech Republic and Sweden. With the motto: *"Recovery, Strength, A Sense of Belonging"* (in French *Relance, Puissance, Appartenance*), the French Presidency proposes an ambitious program, focused on three key areas: **A Sovereign Europe; A Socio-economic Europe / a new European model for growth; A humane Europe**<sup>1</sup>.

The pillars of the French Presidency are: **recovery**, to enable Europe to support the twin transition, green and digital; **strength**, focusing on Europe's ability to defend its values and interests in a complex international context; **belonging**, for the development of a common European vision, through culture, values, and shared history. The logo dedicated to the French Presidency, chosen to suggest strength and trust, is a symbol of the "ambition to move forward", according to the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Clément Beaune<sup>2</sup>.

For a **more sovereign Europe**, France will take action in fields such as crisis prevention and management, including by creating a European Health Union, which will contribute to the prosperity and stability of neighbouring regions, for example the Western Balkans and Africa, but will also provide a European response to global challenges.

As regards the **new European growth model**, the French Presidency will focus on promoting a Europe that progresses on the road towards a green and digital economy, by respecting the commitments to fight against climate change, and by supporting innovation and enhanced European digital capacities. The objective is to foster European excellence through high-quality, high-skilled, and better-paying jobs, and through the adoption of the European Minimum Wage Directive. The French Presidency also aims to support employment as an objective within the EU's economic recovery plan.

<sup>1</sup> 1 January 2021: the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union begins, 1 January 2022, available at <https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/1-january-2022-the-french-presidency-of-the-council-of-the-european-union-begins/>, accessed on 3 January 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Clément Beaune présente l'emblème de la présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne, 9 December 2021, available at [https://www.bfmtv.com/politique/elysee/clement-beaune-presente-l-embleme-de-la-presidence-francaise-du-conseil-de-l-union-europeenne\\_VN-202112090346.html](https://www.bfmtv.com/politique/elysee/clement-beaune-presente-l-embleme-de-la-presidence-francaise-du-conseil-de-l-union-europeenne_VN-202112090346.html), accessed: 5 January 2022.

## opinion

Furthermore, President Emmanuel Macron spoke about the possibility of supplementing the European Recovery Fund (the value of the initial package is EUR 750 billion)<sup>3</sup>.

Regarding the **Sense of Belonging**, France will pay greater attention to citizens' concerns within the Conference on the Future of Europe. The conclusions of the Conference will be presented during the French Presidency, with the goal of providing guidance on the prospects for European integration. Defending the rule of law and European values, promoting culture, science and education, supporting the young European generation are other topics that will be approached with special attention by France.



Copyright: French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Other priorities proposed by France<sup>4</sup> include maintaining consultations at the EU level regarding the response to the health crisis, as well as enhancing the Union's resilience to future crises, strengthening European democracy with regards to both European elections, and the coordinated response to hybrid actions at the EU level. The Presidency's programme also includes objectives such as the adoption of the Strategic Compass at a summit scheduled for March, together with the reform of the Schengen Area, the protection of EU borders, migration control, an improved asylum policy, respecting international values and commitments.

In the field of foreign policy, an area of major interest for France is the review of the partnership between Africa and the European Union, the first step in this direction to be taken at the European Union-African Union Summit on 17 and 18 February 2022, in Brussels. The goal of the summit is to develop an ambitious and forward-looking partnership, by building an area of solidarity, security, sustainable prosperity, and stability. At the same time, the resilience of African health, including through the local production of vaccines, the economic recovery, the development of sustainable infrastructure to support the energy and digital transition, are topics included in the working program of France.

2022 has a special significance for Romania as well, because it marks 15 years since the accession to the European Union. Regarding Romania's position towards the priorities of the French Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>5</sup> welcomed the goals presented by France, emphasizing their correlation with Romania's vision of consolidating the European project based on solidarity, unity, convergence, and resilience. These goals focus on the benefits brought to the European project and to all citizens of the Union, contributing to the development of effective tools and solutions for the future.

More information regarding the programme of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union can be found on the [official website](#).

**Laura-Ştefania Anton**  
Communication Unit

<sup>3</sup> Emmanuel Macron slams UK government as he sets French EU presidency agenda, 9 December 2021, available at <https://www.dw.com/en/emmanuel-macron-slams-uk-government-as-he-sets-french-eu-presidency-agenda/a-60073593>, accessed: 3 January 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Relance, puissance, appurtenance. Le programme de la présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne 1 ER JANVIER - 30 JUIN 2022, available at [https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/media/zeqny1y5/fr\\_programme-pfue.pdf](https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/media/zeqny1y5/fr_programme-pfue.pdf), accessed: 3 January 2022.

<sup>5</sup> MAE salută preluarea de către Franța a Președinției Consiliului Uniunii Europene [MFA salutes the take over by France of the Presidency of the European Union Council], 1 January 2022, available at <https://www.mae.ro/node/57515>, accessed: 4 January 2022.

## The Future of Europe from the perspective of European Union's Neighbouring Countries

In the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe, an extensive citizen-led series of debates, 2021 can be defined as a year of reflection regarding the challenges, opportunities, and perspectives of Europe. In this sense, the European Institute of Romania initiated the collective report titled "Views on the Future of Europe from the EU's Neighbouring Countries", in order to include the inputs of experts from EU's neighbouring countries in this debates. With this goal in mind, 23 experts were invited, from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia), Turkey (candidate country), Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (members of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area). They presented their own points of view regarding the challenges and priorities of the European Union, also underlining how their countries could contribute to the improvement of the presence of the European agenda in their regions.

The proposed articles focused on the three dimensions of their relations with the European Union. First of all, the role of citizens as essential actors in promoting Europeanization in their respective country was strongly underlined. Second of all, at the political elites' level, while they constantly reaffirm the objective of European integration, there needs to be further action for implementing the reforms. Last, but not least, the experts took into consideration the geopolitical dimension, including the interests and actions of other international actors in their respective region.

The authors unanimously expressed the idea that the European Union is perceived by the citizens from neighbouring regions as the solution for overcoming the national economic and political difficulties. The European institutions should therefore engage more in dialogues with the citizens from these states, while political elites must be incentivised to implement structural reforms. The European Union should address the relations with neighbouring states based on the principle of individual evaluation and merit. The complex international context was analysed by the authors as well, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the involvement of other international actors in the EU neighbouring regions. The 23 experts proposed several alternative pathways for enhancing the relations with the European Union, highlighting the strong normative and security connections between the EU and its neighbours.

Given that the Conference on the Future of Europe was initiated following a French proposal in this sense, the collective report includes an article signed by François Lafond, expert with significant experience and expertise in the Western Balkans. He underlined the main objectives of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, including the perspectives of European integration for the Western Balkan countries. The report also includes a brief presentation of Romania's foreign policy objective in relation to these states, signed by Mihai Sebe (Head of the European Studies Unit within the European Institute of Romania).

The collective report "Views on the Future of Europe from the EU's Neighbouring Countries" underscores the complex relations of the European Union with its neighbouring states, proving at the same time that the integration and Europeanization process are among the most important instruments for ensuring peace and economic prosperity for the European countries.

The full text of the collective report, available in English, can be accessed [here](#).

**Ionuț-Mircea Marcu**  
European Studies Unit

**Editor-in-Chief:** Ana-Maria Andreea Anghelescu  
**Editors:** Laura-Ștefania Anton, Ionuț-Mircea Marcu, Mihaela-Adriana Pădureanu  
**Translations RO-EN and EN-RO:** Laura-Ștefania Anton, Ionuț-Mircea Marcu, Mihaela-Adriana Pădureanu  
**Graphics & DTP:** Mihai Paraschiv

\* The texts published in this Newsletter express the authors' opinion and do not represent the official position of the European Institute of Romania.

ISSN 2065 - 457X

In order to receive future issues of the EIR Newsletter, you can subscribe [here](#).



**European Institute of Romania**

7-9, Regina Elisabeta Bvd., RO - 030016, Bucharest, Romania  
Phone: (+4021) 314 26 96 / Fax: (+4021) 314 26 66  
Contact: [newsletter@ier.gov.ro](mailto:newsletter@ier.gov.ro), Web: [ier.gov.ro](http://ier.gov.ro)