

in focus

Europe's future and the Western Balkans, among the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council



eu2018bg.bg

On 1 January 2018, exactly eleven years after its accession to the EU, Bulgaria took over for the first time the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU. According to its dedicated website, the **Bulgarian Presidency**, having the slogan “United We Stand Strong” at heart, will focus on four key priorities: *The Future of Europe and Young People*; *Security and*

Stability; the relationship with the *Western Balkans*; and the *Digital Economy*.¹ And while security and stability, and the digital economy also featured among the priorities of the Estonian Presidency of the EU Council, which ended on 31 December 2017, the other two, centred on the future of the European project and the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries, make for elements of novelty, especially considering the fact that, at least in recent years, the topic of enlargement was basically taboo in most European capitals.

The first priority of the Bulgarian Presidency, referring to the future of Europe and of the European youth, emphasizes that **economic growth and social cohesion are core elements for the further development of the European project**. Regarding the second line of action, the Bulgarian authorities aim to put the country's regional expertise to good use and **achieve a clear action plan with each of the Western Balkan countries, without creating unrealistic expectations**, but with concrete steps on the European path ... **p. 2**

¹ Bulgaria's EU Council Presidency website, available at: <https://eu2018bg.bg/en/priorities>.

EIR

Communication in European Affairs

The events organized by the European Institute of Romania (EIR) in 2017 can be grouped into *three communication projects*, namely: *promotion and dissemination of the research results carried out within the SPOS 2016 project*; *the public debates campaign dedicated to the preparation of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU)* and *the 10th anniversary of Romania's accession to the EU*. At the same time ... **p. 2**



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...In the case of security and stability, the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU will be pushing for **more consensus and joint efforts in the various topics touching upon migration and the security of the Union's external borders**, also bearing in mind the renewed talks about the European Armed Forces and PESCO. Last but not least, the fourth priority - digital economy - will pursue, among others, the goal of **empowering the young people with "the skills for the future"** in order to achieve a competitive, flexible and successful Europe.²

On a more general level, starting from the premise that the European Union is in need of more *security, solidarity and stability*, the Bulgarian Presidency believes that the best way to achieve a secure, stable and solidary Europe is through its 3C's strategy: **consensus, competitiveness and cohesion**, with an overall accent placed on *unity* as the key to attaining all our common goals.³

More specifically, among the main themes and dossiers which will be handled by the Bulgarian Presidency until midyear feature: the ongoing negotiations on *Brexit*, the debates revolving around the migration crisis and the European asylum policy, the discussions about the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, the Cohesion Policy and the Economic and Monetary Union. **The EU Balkan strategy will be discussed in Sofia, on 17 May, during a summit attended by the region's countries** - Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.⁴ In November 2017, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, said that he expects Serbia and Montenegro to join the European Union before 2025 and welcomed Sofia's intent to place the Western Balkans' EU integration among the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency.⁵

A troubling situation that is bound to mark the current rotating presidency is the fact that, at the end of last year, **the European Commission has triggered initial legal proceedings against Poland for breaching European common values and rule of law**. This is the first time when the Commission invokes Article 7 of the Lisbon Treaty, designed to deter Member States from advancing policies which threaten democratic checks and balances. The European Commission has launched it after Poland enacted controversial judicial reforms, not before Warsaw ignored multiple warnings issued by the EU executive.⁶

On 15 January 2018, the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Teodor Meleşcanu was present at the launching conference of Bulgaria's Presidency of the Council of the EU, organized in Bucharest by the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Romania, in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in Romania. On that occasion, the Romanian official stressed that the maintenance and consolidation of European unity is a fundamental common objective for the two states that joined the Union on 1 January 2017. He added that the national process for assuming the presidency of the EU Council by our country in the first semester of 2019 is in full progress.⁷

For six months, Bulgaria will be in the spotlight of current European Affairs and will be the main driving force for the tasks on the agenda of the Union. As an honest broker, it will perform the functions of a political leader, a representative and a coordinator safeguarding the core interests that lie at the heart of the European project. Member States holding the presidency **work together closely in groups of three, called "trios"**. The trio sets long-term goals and prepares a common agenda determining the topics and major issues that will be addressed by the Council over an 18-month period. The current trio is made up of the presidencies of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria. The next trio will be opened by Romania on 1 January 2019 (followed by Finland and Croatia).

Bogdan Mureşan
Studies and Analyses Unit

² *Ibidem*.

³ *Ibidem*.

⁴ EUObserver, "Bulgaria: Western Balkans 2025 enlargement 'realistic'", available at: <https://euobserver.com/enlargement/140527>.

⁵ European Western Balkans, "Juncker expects Montenegro and Serbia to join EU before 2025", available at: <https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2017/11/08/juncker-expects-serbia-join-eu-2025/>.

⁶ Deutsche Welle, "European Commission triggers Article 7 against Poland", available at: <http://www.dw.com/en/european-commission-triggers-article-7-against-poland/a-41873962>.

⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Minister Teodor Meleşcanu at the joint press conference for the launch of the Bulgarian EU Council Presidency: 'Maintaining and strengthening European unity is a fundamental common goal in the current European context'", available at: <http://www.mae.ro/en/node/44671>.

Communication in European Affairs

The events organized by the European Institute of Romania (EIR) in 2017 can be grouped into *three communication projects*, namely: *promotion and dissemination of the research results carried out within the SPOS 2016 project; the public debates campaign dedicated to the preparation of the Romanian Presidency of the Council*

of the European Union (EU) and the 10th anniversary of Romania's accession to the EU. At the same time, EIR continued all its traditional partnerships in order to organize actions meant to bring to the attention of interested audience European topics perceived as priorities at national and EU level.

As a result, three debates were organized as part of the campaign in order to promote and disseminate the results of the research carried out under the Strategy and Policies Studies (SPOS 2016) project: *EU Energy Security. Romania's participation in the Energy Union* (15 February); *The impact of migration on the labour market at European level. How does Romania respond to the new challenges?* (9 March); *Transatlantic Relationship. 20 years of Romania-US Strategic Partnership* (19 September).

These debates created the opportunity for the topics mentioned above to be tackled also from the perspective of the *Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU*, communication project that caught our attention throughout 2017. The other events organised during the public debates campaign were: *The fight against the effects of climate change at European and global level* (21 February); *Europe of young people, young people in Europe! #RO10@EU and #ERASMUS30* (10 March); *Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020 - a response for the future of the EU* (in partnership with the Ministry of Public Finance, 3 April); *Challenges to free movement on the labour market in the European Union* (in partnership with MMJS, 10 April); *Consumer protection - an essential element in achieving a deeper and fairer internal market* (in partnership with INFOCONS, 22 September); *Innovative Transport Networks to Increase Mobility in the Internal Market* (in partnership with the Ministry of Transport, 18 October); *Regional Development and Cohesion Policy Reform post 2020* (in partnership with Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași, 20 October); *EU reform. Options for the future of the European project* (in partnership with the Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 27 October); *Romania and the accession to the euro zone* (with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 13 November), *EU trade policy - challenges and priorities* (in partnership with the Bucharest University of Economic Studies / Faculty of International Business and Economics, 16 November).

On 13 December, the EIR Annual Conference (the *Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, seen through the eyes of the young people*) was also organized within the public debates campaign dedicated to the preparation of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The purpose of this event was to highlight the role and the importance young people can have not only in the preparation process, but also during the Presidency in 2019. The conference was closed by the *EIR Excellence Awards Ceremony*. This year, the awards went to 15 student and youth organizations that perform activities and develop projects related to the field of European affairs: Be You Association, Târgoviște; ESCU Association, Bucharest; European Students Association - ELSA Romania; International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce - AIESEC Bucharest; Youth Offensive Association, Arad; Association of Economics Students from Romania - ASER; European Students Association - AEGEE Bucharest; Volunteers for Ideas and Projects - VIP Romania; Board of European Students of Technology - BEST Bucharest; Business Organization for Students - BOS; Danube Youth Alliance - DYA; YMCA Federation of Romania, Baia Mare; Student Plus Foundation, Timișoara;

Group of the European Youth for Change - GEYC; League of Romanian Students Abroad - LSRS.

A particular support was provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organizing these events and others such as the debate titled *European Semester 2017: Country Specific Recommendations and National Response Measures* (21 September).

The 10th anniversary of Romania's accession to the EU gave the opportunity for EIR to prepare and publicly present a synthesis on the main benefits of Romania's integration into the Community. The *România - 10 ani în Uniunea Europeană* (Romania - 10 years in the EU) Report, authored by the Studies and Analyses Unit, coordinated by Mrs. Gabriela Drăgan, Director General of the EIR, presents a short history of Romania's accession to the EU, its current regional context as well as the evolution of the Romanian citizens' perception on the main sectorial benefits and some considerations on the future of European construction. The report has been promoted both online and offline, during #RO10@EU anniversary events.

Partnerships developed and/or continued during 2017 played a key role in promoting and creating the institutional image. The *European Union: priorities and challenges after six decades of existence* conference was organized in partnership with the Information Office of the European Parliament in Romania (BIPE) on March, 24. EIR was also a partner or supporter in organising thematic events part of the project "Promoters for European Democracy" implemented by BIPE. Therefore, we can mention: *Hackathon - Young Citizens for Europe* 6-7 May, Danube Youth Alliance in partnership with EIR), *EU Foreign Affairs Conference* (12 May, NILS Bucharest in partnership with EIR), *EU-27: Future after Brexit* conference (15 May, Association of History Students "Dacia" in partnership with EIR).



As far as our international partnerships are concerned, we continued to organise debates with the Institute for Eastern Studies in Warsaw, namely the *European Congress of Local Authorities / ECLG (Krakow)* and the *Economic Forum (Krynica)*. Within the ECLG, which took place from 27 to 28 March in Krakow, EIR held the debate on *Creative Regions: Challenges and Opportunities* (28 March). *Roma Locuta - Causa Finita? What is the importance of small*



and medium-sized states in the international game of great powers?. The topic of this debate was included in the Economic Forum program (5 September). Officials and experts from EU Member States as well as from other countries attended the panel moderated by the EIR's Director General.

On 9 September, EIR organized the conference "Europe - Connecting Cultures: Cultural Diversity from Trend Setter to a Problem Child", in partnership with the ESCU Association. This event was part of the *One World 2017 Embassies' Festival* program.

Also, between 26-27 September, EIR hosted *EURITA Workshop on Resettlement and Inclusion* (EURITA seminar on resettlement and inclusion issues). Organised by EIR in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), this seminar was opened by H.E. Mr. Hans Klemm, US Ambassador to Romania.

EIR continued to disseminate the projects implemented in 2017. As a result, three thematic debates were organised within the project funded by EUROFOUND (*Accessibility of medical and care services in Romania*, 22 March, *Working time / Rest time - an increasingly diffused border*, 8 June, and *The lowest wage in Romania - between desiderata and restrictions, a socio-economic approach*, 29 September).

In terms of *promotion and visibility*, the EIR was represented by the President of the Board of

Administration and/or the Director General to numerous national and international events. Also, the EIR events were reflected in media content, particularly online, in articles published by *Caleaeuropeană.ro* (including live streams), *Europunkt*, *Agerpres*, *News.ro*, *Actmedia.eu*, *Ziarul Bursa*, *Privesc.eu* (live streams), and so on. The results of media monitoring can be consulted online at following address: www.ier.ro, in the archive of each event organised.

Also on 8 March, the *Europunkt* online portal published Gabriela Drăgan's interview on *viitorul Europei. The Future Ain't What It Used to Be. Idioms and idiosyncrasies in 2017* was published in the latest issue of *The Market for Ideas*. *Ce ar putea pierde România din reconfigurarea Europei? Ce se întâmplă cu fondurile europene?* interview was also published in *Ziare.com*. There were also interviews and articles regarding the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU: an *interview* for the *Intervio.ro* portal, the articles *Cronica unei Președinții anunțate ...* (5 October) and *De la Bratislava la Sibiu .. AMR: 1 an, o lună, două săptămâni și trei zile* (12 November) on the *Cursdeguvernare.ro* portal, as well as an *interview* for the *Europunkt* portal (5 December).

Furthermore, EIR's Director General was invited to take part in the show *Art.VII / TVR International* (28 June, *recording*), as well as in the *Europa mea / TVR1* show (11 July, *recording*). Mrs. Drăgan gave interviews for *Radio* shows focused on European affairs (eg, the interview broadcasted by *Radio Romania Actualități* on 19 July, *recording*).

Leaflets disseminated during training courses or communication events were a successful way of promoting EIR's products and services (training courses, events, publications, internships, etc.). Also, this information can be found on the official EIR webpage and on the Facebook page ([FB_IER](https://www.facebook.com/EIR)).

For more information regarding our activities and communication instruments in European Affairs, please visit www.ier.ro.

Florentina Costache
Communication and Marketing Unit

European Studies and Analyses

Arguably the most important activity conducted by the Studies and Analyses Unit (SAU) from EIR during 2017 regarded the **coordination of the Strategy and Policy Studies project - SPOS 2017**, which was designed years ago to support the public administration in the policy drafting and decision-making processes. Last year's iteration of our project featured four research topics, as follows: *the impact of Romania's accession to the European Union for the Romanian economy*; *Romania as democratic transition expertise supplier for the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries*; *Romania and the EU Digital Single Market*; *Current challenges in the field of cyber-security and Romania's contribution to this field*.

The proposed research topics, relevant and timely, given the national and the wider regional context, have stirred the interest of potential researchers of diverse backgrounds and, as such, we received a total of 36 applications. Many of these stood out through the quality of their included research proposals and through the high qualification of the research team members in relevant domains.



Regarding the SPOS activity, it is worth mentioning the impressive number of representatives from the public administration which were nominated to take part in the working groups/each study and the constructive feedback offered to the authors along the research process. Also, the efficient dialogue with the selected teams of authors and last, but not least, the high quality of the research output. The four finalized studies will be officially launched and made available for the public in the first quarter of 2018.

In addition to the administrative and scientific coordination of the SPOS 2017 project, the members of the Studies and Analyses Unit were responsible for the publication of the biannual academic journal RJEА, writing articles, analyses, microstudies on various European themes, editing the EIR Newsletter, and participating and representing EIR at different national and international events with relevance to the European Studies domain, in particular, and International Relations at large.

In 2017, the academic publication **Romanian Journal of European Affairs (RJEА)** brought to our readers' attention topics such as: the influence deriving from the status of holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union over the national coordination mechanism in the area of European Affairs; the future of Scotland in the aftermath of *Brexit*; the sensitive topic of Ukraine's complex and thorny European path; Romania's future accession to the euro area; patterns of (dis)continuity in former UK Prime Minister David Cameron's European policy; conflicting discourses regarding the EU-Russia relationship; various facets of Euroscepticism in Estonia; a comparative analysis of the trade performance of the Baltic states, etc.

After the editorial team decided in February 2016 to create a **dedicated Facebook page** for the journal in order to improve the efficiency of the dissemination in the online environment of the scientific articles published, we are happy to announce that we reached 755 likes in 2017 (<https://www.facebook.com/romanian.journal.of.european.affairs/>). Also, last year, RJEА, already included in various international database like *Ebsco*, *ProQuest* and *Scopus*, has been selected to be part of the *Clarivate Analytics* (former Thomson Reuters) portfolio of products and services starting from June 2017. Consequently, the journal is indexed and features in the **Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)**.

The six editions of the **Newsletter** hosted opinion articles and news on topics like: an overlook at Romania's first decade as member of the European Union, the ongoing *Brexit* negotiations, the Maltese and Estonian Presidencies of the EU Council, the anniversary of 60 years since the signing of the Rome Treaties, the independence referendum organized in Catalonia, the series of events hosted by EIR as official partner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs against the backdrop of the preparations and public consultations in view of Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first semester of 2019, EIR's traditional participation at the Krynica Economic Forum etc.

The **EIR microstudies collection** has benefited from the following entries: an extensive Working Paper on the topic of "*The new generation of Europeans. How do high school pupils perceive the EU?*" (Author Oana Popescu) and another one centred on the *first 10 years since Romania's accession to the European Union* (a collective Report coordinated by EIR Director General Gabriela Drăgan and produced by the Studies and Analyses Unit - Oana Mocanu, Bogdan Mureșan, Eliza Vaș, Mihai Sebe); and four Policy Briefs: "*Left behind? Reassessing the Balkan quest for EU integration*" (Author Horia Ciurtin), "*Academic Leave? The Impact of Brexit on British Higher Education*" (Author Emil Pânzaru), "*The Transatlantic Relation. The 20th Anniversary of the United States-Romania Strategic Partnership*" (a collective paper coordinated by EIR expert Bogdan Mureșan); "*A Pivot to Europe: China's Belt-and-Road Balancing Act*" (Author Horia Ciurtin). All these documents are available for free on EIR's website, in the Publications section.

The Studies and Analyses Unit members participated all year long in different national and international events, with European relevance and resonance, as speakers, panellists or moderators. On several occasions, they had paper presentations and were invited to various radio and TV shows, where they promoted their research results and other training and communication products of the EIR.

Throughout the year, the unit was involved, together with the Communication and Marketing Unit, in preparing and implementing the *project focused on the public debates related to the process of Romania's preparation for the Presidency of the Council of European Union from 2019*. The Studies team produced background papers and summaries for the events organized, on topics such as: the multiannual financial framework, consumers' protection, the future of Europe, the EU Council Presidency through the eyes of the young people, Romania and its future accession to the euro area, the transatlantic relation at 20 years of Romania-US Strategic Partnership.

Oana Mocanu
Studies and Analyses Unit

Training in European Affairs

Without a doubt, 2017 was an eventful year for the Training Unit of the European Institute of Romania (EIR). On the one hand we went on with the EIR traditional courses, and on the other hand we implemented new projects that are going to continue and expand in 2018.

In 2017, as usual, the EIR also subsidised courses such as "Public affairs and administration", "Waste recovery engineering", "Protection of personal data in the European Union", "Rules and procedures of legislative technique". More and more employees of the public administration, as well as representatives of the business community, have shown an interest in these topics.

In addition to subsidised courses, EIR also organized paid courses. The year 2017 has been dedicated to "Preventing and combating corruption" and to the course "Diplomacy and protocol". Since in May 2018, the EU Regulation 2016/679 concerning the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of these data will come into force, the course "Protection of personal data in the EU" had a great success in the paid version.

The 4th quarter of the year 2017 marked the involvement of the European Institute of Romania organizing **courses to prepare civil servants for the purpose of taking over the Presidency of the EU Council by Romania in the first half of the year 2019**.

This very laborious project involved organizing, in a very short time, numerous courses for a number of 250 participants. The participants came from various state institutions and they are officials to assume the position of President or Vice-President of the various working groups in Brussels.

The EIR organized English courses, with an emphasis on negotiation and effective conduct of the discussions within the working groups, as well as courses in the field of European Affairs, such as "The EU institutions", "The legal system of the EU", "EU policies" (economic and foreign affairs), "The EU's decision-making process."

To be able to organize all these courses, the EIR collaborated in 2017 as well with teams of trainers dedicated to and appreciated by the participants in the courses. For the project dedicated to Romania's Presidency to the Council of the EU, the EIR signed a protocol of cooperation with



the National Council of Rectors, led by Mr Sorin Cîmpeanu, whereby the trainers of the courses dedicated to this project were selected by this body of academia, on the basis of the experience in working with adults and knowledge in the field of the course.

As venues of deployment, in the year 2017 too, we used the Institute's halls. It has two lecture halls, one of them for a number of 30-35 participants and a second for a maximum number of 15-18 participants. The project of the courses for the Presidency has benefited from its partnership with the Academy of Economic Studies that provided the lecture halls. For this project implied 3 to 5 courses in parallel.

In the year 2018 the project of preparing public administration employees for Romania's EU Council Presidency will continue. English language training will be a constant activity of the year 2018, but it is expected to extend to the persons responsible for the dossier, not only the Presidents and vice-presidents of the working groups. Also, all those appointed to represent Romania in the first half of the year 2019 will benefit from a number of specialized courses, organized with leading trainers in Romanian and international academia.

In 2018, special attention will be given to personal data protection, in order to assist the state institutions, as well as private firms, in the implementation of the new regulation.

EIR Training Unit

European Projects

In 2017, the EIR Projects Unit has contributed, along with other departments, to the implementation of projects which received funding in previous years or were approved in 2017 and to the submission of new projects applications. Among the projects which are or were implemented we mention *Towards a Citizens' Union* and *Eurofound Network of Correspondents: Romania*.

The project *Towards a Citizens' Union*, funded through Erasmus +, Jean Monnet Networks, is a project coordinated by CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies¹) Belgium, with a network of 20 European Union research centres that are part of the EPIN (European Policy Institutes Network²). In the framework of the project, EIR is the partner organization from Romania. The members of the Studies and Analyses Unit are involved in conducting research activities (the themes of research being: participatory democracy, representative democracy and democratic accountability) and in the development and elaboration of policy materials and documents for a period of 36 months starting with 1 October 2017. The Projects Unit is responsible for monitoring the implementation of EIR specific activities and for assisting the Studies and Analyses Unit in the administrative aspects of the project.



As for the *Eurofound Network of Correspondents: Romania* project was extended for the fourth time, due to the good management. The deliverables (case studies, quarterly reports, factsheets etc.) were elaborated by researchers contracted by the European Institute of Romania. Also, EIR and its partners were involved in the dissemination process, by publishing on their websites and FB pages, information about the Eurofound publications and by organizing public debates. EIR organized three debates in March, June and September 2017 on three different themes such as: (i) accessibility of health services, (ii) Directive of the European Parliament concerning certain aspects of the organization of working time and (iii) minimum wage-setting mechanisms in Romania.

In 2017, the Projects Unit in partnership with Euractiv Network took part at the Eurofound tender *Provision of scheduled and on-request reporting services - Network of Eurofound Correspondents*. The proposal submitted by the two partners, was declared successful and EIR will implement the project till 2022.

Additionally, the Projects Unit was also focused upon submitting project proposals, in the framework of Erasmus+, Operational Programme Administrative Capacity, DG Justice, Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020 and DG Regio. New partnerships were signed in 2017 with institutions from Romania, Republic of Moldova, Italy, Poland and Estonia.

Nicoleta Voicu
Projects Unit

¹ More information about the organization can be found at: <https://www.ceps.eu/>.

² More information about the network can be found at: <http://www.epin.org/new/index.php>.

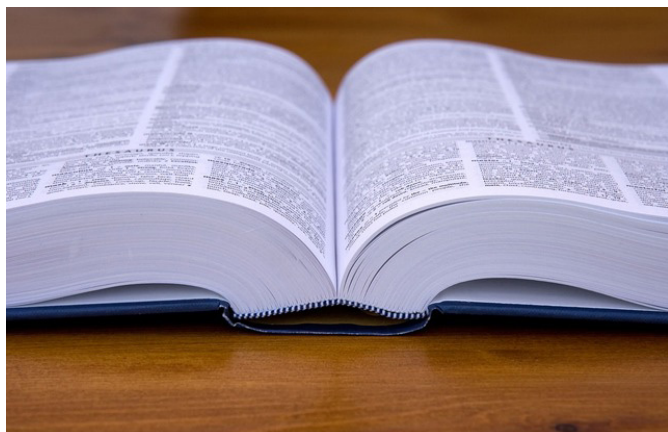
Translation Coordination

In 2017, the Translation Coordination Unit (TCU) has effectively fulfilled its major objectives: improving the access of the interested public to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and to the Romanian legislation relevant for the European affairs, as well as providing support for other EIR activities (simultaneous translation services, writing and translating articles for EIR's Newsletter).

For the purpose of improving access to the **European Court of Human Rights case-law**, TCU provides the translation (from English and French) and specialised revision of the ECHR case-law on the basis of the Trilateral Collaboration

Protocol between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) and EIR, signed on 6 April, 2011. This Protocol is a continuation of the bilateral Protocol between EIR and SCM, signed on 17 July 2008.

The continuation and extension of the initial protocol asserts the importance of translations from the ECHR case-law into Romanian. These translations are then introduced in the **HUDOC database** (<http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/>) of the ECHR, which contains documents in 33 languages. As to the number of documents available online, besides the official languages (English and French), the Romanian language ranks second after the Turkish language.



With the same purpose of enabling access to ECHR case-law, a number of 71 cases (judgements, decisions and summaries) were indexed. Indexation consists of indicating articles relied on and of extracting key-words from each case.

Another important activity of TCU during 2017 year was the translation of documents requested by the **Council of Europe**, regarding discrimination.

As concerns the **terminological research** activity, 513 proposals were made throughout this year, of which 503 entries were validated and added to **MultiTerm**, EIR's terminology database which contains over 56,000 entries.

A change with major impact on TCU's activity this year was the updating of the technical means. At present, translators and revisers of TCU use the **SDL Trados 2017** software, which is one of the latest technologies in computer assisted translation. Through the SDL Trados system, all TCU staff have access simultaneously to the translation memory

and the terminology database. The translation memory is constantly enlarged by the translations made by the TCU staff and the ECHR case-law translation memory is the largest in Romania.

TCU provided support to other departments of EIR by writing and translating Newsletter articles, answering to questions addressed to Europe Direct Information Centre and by being involved in the drawing up of internal documents (Regulation of Organisation and Functioning and Internal Regulation of EIR, as well as internal management control procedures and documents). Also, our colleagues Ionela Haralambie and Mihai Constandache provided simultaneous translation (in English and Romanian) at several EIR's events.

Besides the specific activities, the TCU staff took part in training programs and courses on various themes ("Communication in European Affairs"; "Norms and procedures of legislative technique"; "Administration and European Affairs"; "Project writing"; "Preventing and combating corruption", among others), as well as in conferences, seminars, round tables and debates.

For further information on the activity of the Translation Coordination Unit, please visit the following sections on EIR's website:

http://www.ier.ro/en/team-departments.html?departament_id=414104

<http://www.ier.ro/en/activities/translation-coordination-unit.html>

Mihaela Moncea
Translation Coordination Unit

Europe Direct Information Centre - Bucharest

The year 2017 was an anniversary year, with a major importance for Romania and for the European Union. The activities planned for this year of the 2013-2017 EDIC project have been developed and directly correlated with the needs and particularities of the local and regional community as well as with the objectives of the European Union agenda. All these activities have achieved the major objective of bringing the European Union closer to its citizens. They continued to be informed regarding their rights and, in particular, regarding the European Commission's priorities, to which we dedicated specific events. Moreover, a series of events has been focused on identifying the priorities of the EU Council Presidency that will be held by Romania in 2019 and we have also dedicated some events or activities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Romania's accession to the European Union and 30 years since the launch of the Erasmus programme. We continued to pay special attention to education, one of the communication priorities of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania, priority that has been reflected in the actions dedicated to pupils, students, teachers, as the main target group, but also to the general public.

Thus, during 2017, we organized European information seminars, simulations of EU decision-making process, debates, workshops and interactive discussions in *world café* format, events dedicated to some European days, as well as



various competitions in order to mark a decade from Romania's accession to the European Union.

Because 2017 was a year of anniversaries, in March we organized the debate *"Youth's Europe, Europe's Youth! #RO10@EU and #ERASMUS30"*, the event being part of the public debates campaign meant to encourage reflection on the priorities of the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council in the first half of 2019. In addition to the 10th anniversary of Romania's accession to the European Union, the keystone of the talks was the celebration of 30 years since the launching of the Erasmus programme and 20 years of European programmes in education, training and youth in Romania.



Because we like non-formal *world café* activities, in 2017 we continued this series of events that proved to be successful in 2016 with two events entitled *"The fight against the effects of climate change on European and global level"* and *"EU: Security, migration and unemployment solutions"*. The activities have been organized under the form of interactive analyses and discussions, moderated by various facilitators, experts in the areas under discussion. The students actively participated to these discussion groups addressing the impact of climate change and combating climate change, as well as EU security, migration and unemployment.

But what can we do more to inform young people, our preferred target group, how can they get the job they want at the end of their studies? The answer is: organizing the *"Developing competencies - an essential role in linking education to the labour market needs in the European Union"* workshop! The event took place in the form of practical workshops with the purpose to prepare young people for insertion into the labour market and it aimed to answer the following questions: how to build a European quality CV, which are the most demanded qualifications on the labour market in the EU, how can I get a mobility in the EU, etc.

Given that the European Union grants high importance to the European cultural richness, as President Jean-Claude Juncker highlighted in his speech on the State of the Union, we celebrated the European Creativity Day together with the "Nicolae Tonitza" High School of Fine Arts in Bucharest, within the event *"Colourful Ideas for Creative Minds"*, in which students expressed their

creativity in thematic workshops: textiles and easel painting.

How could we celebrate the European Music Day if not through a classical music concert, supported by talented students from the "Dinu Lipatti" National Art College? This captivating event, entitled *"Dream of a European Artist"*, took place in an inspired setting, namely in the Little Hall of the "George Enescu" National Museum. On this occasion, all forms of musical expression have been highlighted, the young students being involved in activities aimed at rediscovering the local and European cultural values.

In September 2017, on the occasion of the International Tourism Day, our Centre organized a *"treasure hunt"* activity in Herastrau Park, where the pupils coming from four high schools in Bucharest, accompanied by their teachers and by the EDIC Bucharest volunteers, had the mission to identify certain key objectives in the park.

Last year we could not omit the International Volunteering Day, which we celebrated, naturally, through a volunteering activity! Young people, students and pupils, eager to help the 27 elderly people from the Precupeții Vechi Social Centre "The Veil of the Mother of God" joined forces and managed to collect products that are absolutely necessary for them, and the students from the "Mihail Sadoveanu" Theoretical High School in Bucharest performed a seasonal artistic programme.

In 2017, our Centre also continued the tradition of



organizing Summer Schools, which were successful in the previous years. Thus, at the beginning of September, we organized in Poiana Braşov the Summer School *"Connecting (social) start-ups - how to become an entrepreneur in the epoch 5.0"*, organized in partnership with the EDICs from Bacău and Argeş, with the support of the Alt Braşov Innovation Cluster. The summer school was organized in the form of four workshops that focused on the ecosystem of social start-ups in the European Union and in Romania, what is necessary to lay the foundations of a social start-up (with a focus on the idea/the need, the product and the source of funding), the development plan for a future start-up and the skills needed to make an e-pitch with an impact.



In a year dedicated to the preparation of the Presidency of the EU Council, which will be held by Romania in the first half of 2019, we focused our efforts on informing young people from two high schools in Bucharest, namely “Iulia Haşdeu” National College and “Gheorghe Lazăr” National College about the functioning of the EU institutions, in particular the EU Council, within the “RO 4 EU Council” series of events. These events have been continued by a series of simulations of the decision-making process of the European Parliament, carried out in partnership with the EDIC from Stara Zagora under the title “Youth take the decision!”. The same passionate students who participated to the above-mentioned information events proved their public speaking skills during the sessions



held in Stara Zagora and Bucharest. Being divided in the existing political groups from the European Parliament, the students simulated the debates on two topical themes: Brexit and the impact of migration on the national identities of the Member States. Each political group appointed a rapporteur who presented the group’s position on the issues raised. The activities ended with the adoption of resolutions.

Apart from these activities, our team also organised the event dedicated to *Europe’s Day* (9th May) called “*Fall in love with Europe!*”, as well as activities under the *Europe Direct Club* umbrella and participated at a lot of events organized by our partners!

Loredana Licuța
EDIC Bucharest Coordinator

promo

EIR intends to extend in 2018 its network of partners. We hereby present you a future partner of both the institute and EDIC Bucharest.

Cantus Mundi

For the *Cantus Mundi National Program*, the year 2017 meant, among others, 17,768 children that took part in over 70 national events, 372 new choirs, which signed up on the *Cantus Mundi online platform* (<https://www.cantusmundi.com>), 485 trained conductors and, last but not least, an organic development of the *Cantus Mundi Community* which reached over 13,000 people through the dedicated Facebook page: *Cantus Mundi Facebook Page* (<https://www.facebook.com/CantusMundiRomania>).



Corul Național de Camera
MADRIGAL
Marin Constantin



The Fourth Cantus Mundi National Gala

The final event of the year was the *Cantus Mundi National Gala*, which took place on the **20 December** and was organized in partnership with the *Comic Opera for Children*. The Gala gave the children involved the opportunity of meeting their mentors, the members of the *National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin”*. Over 500 children and young people from all over the country had the opportunity to be on the same stage with the most famous Romanian choral ensemble. This moment was seen by the public on the **Romanian public broadcaster channel TVR1** on 23 December 2017.



About the *Cantus Mundi National Program*

Cantus Mundi National Program, designed to be a social integration instrument for children and youth, aims to overcome all types of barriers through music, creating new cultural communities which share, as a catalyst, the love for choral melodies. Under the careful guidance of the program's founder, the famous international conductor Ion Marin, and the constant support of the *National Chamber Choir "Madrigal - Marin Constantin"*, *Cantus Mundi* was presented to the public on the 29 September 2011, in a major event, attended by over 700 children from the entire country, that took place at the Romanian Parliament, hosted by the Rosetti Hall. Three years later, this program was institutionalized by the Governmental Decision no. 821/2014. And from that moment onwards, *Cantus Mundi* became a new department coordinated by the Ministry of Culture: "*Madrigal*" Choir.



Cantus Mundi National Program provides an online platform for its members, which brings them together and facilitates communication. There, they can find scores, video and audio lessons or tips on how to promote and encourage the Romanian choral movement. Furthermore, this platform represents a gateway to the best socialization and promotion engine of similar initiatives: a forum administrated by experts, photo and video galleries and a database of all the choirs in Romania.

During seven years of activity, the *Cantus Mundi National Program* gathered under its umbrella more than 700 choirs and around 20,000 children, along with their conductors, which took part in various choral singing promotion events all over the country. Ethnicity, social status, physical or

cognitive capabilities, all these were pushed in the background, while building complex cultural cores and connections badly needed for the revitalization of our society. That is why it is estimated that in a very short time, countrywide, 4,100 conductors will be trained and 250,000 children and young people will be part of a choir. Moreover, *Cantus Mundi* wants to find the proper way to expand on a European level. In this regard, a relevant example is that in **October 2017**, after long discussions with local authorities, *Cantus Mundi team* established the **first choir of children and young refugees in Romania in Constanța County**.

Cantus Mundi's choir members are always invited and encouraged to get involved in as many artistic and cultural activities as possible - a work done, on many accounts, with great success. Arguably, the climax was reached through December 2017's events, when over 3,500 children performed on different stages as part of the *Cantus Mundi movement*.



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