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Romania: A decade of EU membership. Between joyous optimism and bleak defeatism



Anniversary moments usually tend to invite us to see the glass half full of a certain situation, to discuss about the virtues of the celebrated person, entity or event, and to project positive thoughts about the future and things to come. What could we then say about the anniversary of a decade of EU membership for Romania? And what about the

fact that 2017 also marks 60 years since the signing of the Treaty of Rome which gave birth to the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community? An honest answer to such questions can only be given if we bare in mind the troubled international and regional context of this past decade and some of the factors that have influenced it: the economic and financial crisis with worldwide effects, the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, the migrants' crisis, the multiple terrorist attacks which aimed at the heart of European solidarity and, last but not least - *Brexit*. This avalanche of challenges which determined European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker to say last year that the EU is currently suffering from an "existential crisis" is bound to make any such anniversary a moment of self-reflection and accountability, forcing us to adopt a more nuanced and balanced tone. The assessment grid, applicable whether we look at the macroeconomic developments, the justice system progress or internal market access, should by default prevent us from adopting a joyous optimism or, by contrast, a bleak defeatism ... **p.2**

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EIR in 2016 _____

EIR Communication in European Affairs

In the year 2016, as in previous years, the European affairs communication events organised by the European Institute of Romania (EIR) brought to the public's attention important European topics seen as priorities both on a national and European level.

The studies carried out within the Strategy and Policy Studies 2015 project were launched at the Conference organised on 22 March 2016. The research output dissemination campaign took place in April, as follows: *The fight against Euroscepticism and extremism/radicalisation, and the consolidation of trust in European values (4 April), The cross-border cooperation between Romania and Ukraine, and between Romania and the Republic of Moldova ... p.4*



... In the case of macroeconomic developments, the numbers - cold and dry, but successfully managing to avoid any unnecessary romancing of the reality - point us to the fact that during the past ten years (2007-2016), marked by a severe financial and economic crisis, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Romania actually doubled. The value reached in 2016, of 168.9 billion euro, meant that Romania's GDP per capita was about 60% of the EU28 average (compared to 38% in 2006). The growth in GDP, which came both as a result of an expanding domestic production and of flourishing exports (e.g., the exports of agricultural products towards EU countries have multiplied five times, from 747.4 million euro in 2009 to 3 889 million euro in 2015), have fuelled an increase of the average gross monthly wage (with 146% in terms of average nominal income by comparison to 2006 levels and with 66% in terms of real income), but also of the guaranteed minimum income (from about 100 euro in 2006 to about 264 euro in 2016). Important structural changes, which reflected structural mutations inside the Romanian economy and the growing importance of the creative industries sector, took place on the job market: if ten years ago bankers used to be on the first place of the best-paid jobs list, currently the spotlight belongs to IT&C employees (in 2016, an IT&C employee had a monthly net average wage of 5 382 lei, while an employee of the banking system gained 4 309 lei). Nevertheless, even if the overall GDP dynamics was favourable, in absolute GDP per capita terms Romania continues to rest at the bottom of EU rankings, also when it comes to absolute and relative poverty standings. Moreover, we have similar poor positions in almost any list measuring different aspects of competitiveness.

The fields of the judiciary and the fight against corruption were featured on the list of complementary control measures, established within the framework of Romania's EU Accession Treaty. When Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU on 1 January 2007, it was believed that they still had progress to make in the fields of judicial reform, combating corruption and organized crime. To smooth the entry of both countries and at the same time safeguard the workings of its policies and institutions, the EU decided to establish a special "cooperation and verification mechanism" (CVM) to help them address these residual shortcomings. This measure was considered both a necessary extra control instrument, but also a double standard and an unfair and discriminatory interference in the internal affairs of a Member State. It is worth mentioning that the European Commission already had at its disposal different types of instruments, based on the *acquis*, to which it could resort in order to avoid any deficiencies capable of hindering the well-functioning of EU policies, like safeguard clauses, financial corrections in the case of inadequate use of EU funds, but also infringement procedures. Thus, regardless of our perception about the role of the CVM, we can bluntly admit that during the last decade significant progress has been made in the respective fields, which helped Romania become a model of democratic transition and good practices.

All statistics, econometric studies and financial analyses (meant to assess the impact of EU membership on different macroeconomic figures and flows of goods, capital, services and people) aside, the impact of integrating the grand European family should also be evaluated with regards to the public perception. And, for the common citizen, the main benefit of European Union accession was, as a corollary, the opportunity to work and study abroad, inside the EU. This advantage, which derives from the Member State status, has been identified as being the most important positive aspect of EU membership, according to the November Eurobarometer study. When asked about "*what the EU means for you, personally*", 53% of the Romanians associated the membership first and foremost with the freedom of travelling, working and studying in the EU (4% over the EU28 average), while the freedom of movement proved to be the most cherished right of EU citizenship for Romanians (35%), well above the EU average (26%). On the other hand, the effects generated by this right are mixed, at best. Judging by the results of various studies, the presence of over 3 million Romanian citizens abroad, in different EU Member States, whether for working or studying purposes, has both pros (like the transfer of knowledge and good practices and the money sent back home by foreign workers) and cons (like the brain drain phenomenon, the lack of workers in various activity sectors - which in turn might fuel the lack of attractiveness of the Romanian socioeconomic system). Regardless of the chosen paradigm when discussing about the pluses and minuses of the freedom of movement principle, the general perception of the Romanian citizen remains overall favourable, and the transformation of this biunivocal relationship into an even more beneficial one for the country will primarily depend on the quality of the national public policies.

As I have mentioned earlier, any anniversary, and even more so the celebration of ten years of EU membership for Romania and of six decades of sustained European integration, should consist not only of festive manifestations, but also of a critical summary of the collective achievements and a moment of self-reflection for the Union, confronted with a political landscape marred by a rising Euroscepticism in recent years. Currently, the European Union is searching for answers to a series of questions, both on European and national level: which will be the priorities of the future Multiannual Financial Framework, after 2020, what will be the outlook of the future strategy for sustainable and competitive growth that will replace the Europe 2020 Strategy, and, last but not least, how will the exit of Great Britain impact on the overall functioning of the EU? All these issues will determine the identification in due time of realistic, constructive and value-added solutions at European level.

Far from being a simple benchmark on a timeline, Romania's EU membership represents a success story and we can confidently assume that the integration process will continue. Even though 2017 marks a decade since its EU accession, Romania is still not part of the Schengen Area and the euro zone. Nonetheless, Romania already acts as a *de facto* member of the Schengen Area, successfully ensuring the security of a significant part of EU's Eastern outer border, and, with regards to the single currency, it already fulfils the vast majority of the nominal convergence criteria. The deepening of Romania's EU integration should however involve a better fruition of the benefits of EU membership, a much more active presence in the decision-making arena, and smarter use of the available opportunities for members of the internal market and the community's integrated justice and security system. Against this backdrop, the fact that Romania will take over the semestrial presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2019 will represent a maturity test for the country, which it would do well to pass with an A+.

Gabriela Drăgan
General Director of the European Institute of Romania

The reform of the EU budget financing



Photo source: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/hlgor/index_en.cfm

On 17 January 2017 the *Report of the High-Level Group on Own Resources* regarding the reform of the EU budget financing was released. The Report was presented to the Presidents of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the EU by the Chairman of the group, *Mario Monti*, former prime-minister of Italy and former EU Commissioner.

Professor **Daniel Dăianu**, member of the Romanian Academy, former minister of finance of Romania and former member of the European Parliament, is one of the authors of the Report, as well as other personalities such as Alain Lamassoure, Pierre Moscovici, and Guy Verhofstadt, appointed by the European Parliament, EU Council and European Commission.

The High-Level Group on Own Resources was established in February 2014 with the aim to analyse and recommend new

ways to finance the EU budget, in a more transparent, fair and accountable manner.

Some of the *Report's recommendations* mention: the necessity of a EU budget reform, both on revenue and expenditure side, adapted to the present priorities; the principles of such a reform: the European added value, subsidiarity, budgetary neutrality, unity, transparency, support for EU policies; finding new own resources for the budget (such as corporate income tax-based own resource, taxes related to energy union, environment, climate or transport policies etc.); abolishing all correction mechanisms on the revenues; ensuring the coherence of the EU budget and national budgets within the European Semester and so on.

For more information on the Group's activity and results, please access: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/hlgor/index_en.cfm

The full Report can be accessed here: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/hlgor/library/reports-communication/hlgor-report_20170104.pdf



Oana Mocanu
Studies and Analyses Unit

in focus

Malta takes over the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2017



On 1 January 2017 Malta became the smallest country ever to take on the presidency of the Council of the EU, assuming the rotating position for the next six months. In a complex and complicated regional and international context, Malta's priorities have already been clearly laid out: migration, security, single market, social inclusion, neighbourhood policy and maritime affairs, given its geostrategic location just 300 kilometres from the Tunisian coast.¹ During a press conference in Valletta dedicated to the launch of

the EU presidency, in the presence of European Commission's President Jean-Claude Juncker, **the Maltese premier has promised that his country will fight to reduce the divisions among Member States inflicted by the successive or simultaneous crises**, with a special focus on European ideals and citizens. *The Maltese have dubbed their presidency's leitmotif "rEUion", describing it as "a fully-fledged philosophy of listening and working for the people".*²

With regards to migration, Malta vowed to make progress on border control, pushing for the reform of the Common European Asylum System and the transformation of the European Asylum Support Office into a proper EU agency. However, on the controversial reform of the Dublin Regulation regarding foreign asylum applicants, a key element in the ongoing debate, the Maltese vice-premier Louis Grech has warned against any overly optimistic attitudes.³ As with migration, solidarity seems to be the key word in another one of the Maltese presidency's set out priorities, namely the one referring to social inclusion. As such,

¹ The Priorities of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union may be accessed here: [https://www.eu2017.mt/Documents/Maltese%20Priorities/EU2017MT%20-%20Presidency%20Priorities%20\(EN\).pdf](https://www.eu2017.mt/Documents/Maltese%20Priorities/EU2017MT%20-%20Presidency%20Priorities%20(EN).pdf).

² EurActiv, "Malta bets on pragmatic idealism for its EU Presidency", available at: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/malta-bets-on-pragmatic-idealism-for-its-eu-presidency/>.

³ *Ibidem*.

aside from the external divisions among Member States, the presidency's program highlights the importance of reducing the domestic inequality gap, in trying to redress the socio-economic malaise spread against the backdrop of the economic crisis. This policy should be complemented by measures meant to advance gender equality and the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups.

Given the fact that, according to the latest Eurobarometer polls, immigration and terrorism feature at the top of the European citizens' concerns and fears⁴, the Maltese presidency intends to remain vigilant to ensure the security of the European citizens, in response to an international landscape that is increasingly volatile. As such, it will contribute towards concrete progress on proposals that address regional and global challenges. "The EU's first line of work in this area remains effective diplomacy, and in this respect we will work closely with the European External Action Service under the umbrella of the EU's Global Strategy to manage the complex challenges of migration, terrorism, and hybrid threats".⁵

Beyond immigration and security issues, Brexit will occupy most of Malta's presidency, should London decide to trigger Article 50, in line with the current timetable, and start the withdrawal negotiations. A former British colony and a traditional UK ally in Brussels, Malta will be tasked with organising these negotiations. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat has assured that his country is prepared for the eventual start of the negotiations, and has said that his government will look to play "an honest broker role" between the UK and the EU.⁶

The surge of extreme nationalism and protectionism, fuelled by a toxic populism, has divided leaders who disagree among themselves on the best way forward, both on domestic and international problems. Nevertheless, in March 2017, EU heads of state and government will gather in Italy's capital to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, and the meeting should be an occasion to sketch out a new vision for the future of Europe, in general, and of the European project, in particular. The preparations for the event will kick off at a summit in Malta on 3 February, when EU leaders are expected to meet to discuss the future of the Union without the UK, following in the footsteps of the Bratislava dialogue. And Malta could very well be placed to channel all the positive energies favouring the European Union and give it a new boost, after several years of relative decline in terms of normative power.

The presidency of the Council rotates among the EU Member States every six months. During this period, the presidency chairs meetings at every level in the Council, helping to ensure the continuity of the EU's work in this framework. Member States holding the presidency work together closely in groups of three, called "trios", a system introduced by the Lisbon Treaty back in 2009. The current trio is made up of the presidencies of the Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta and will end on 30 June 2017.

Bogdan Mureşan
Studies and Analyses Unit

⁴ The full results of the Eurobarometers may be consulted by accessing the "Public Opinion" site of the European Commission: <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/index#p=1&instruments=STANDARD>.

⁵ Priorities of the Maltese Presidency.

⁶ EurActiv, "Malta bets on pragmatic idealism for its EU Presidency".

EIR in 2016

EIR Communication in European Affairs

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The series of debates *Recent Developments within the European Union* continued within the event organized on 23 February and welcomed as invited guest Mrs Tanja Mišćević, Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Serbia's accession process to the European Union.

Being convinced of the gained benefits of the collaboration/partnership relations in promoting and creating an institutional image, in the year 2016 we brought close to us important institutions from Romania and/or the EU. As a result, three debates have been organized in collaboration with the Romanian Society of Economics - SOREC: *The Potential economic-growth* (4 February), *Unconventional monetary policies* (8 April) and the debate on the launching of the study *Romania and the accession to the Eurozone: the question is under which conditions!*, coordinated by Prof. Daniel Dăianu (16 November, organized with the support of the National Bank of Romania). EIR participated in two major events, namely the *European Congress of Local Authorities* (5-6 April, Krakow) and the *Krynica Economic Forum* (6-8 September) in partnership with the Institute for Eastern Studies (ISE, Poland). The Panel held in Krakow (6 April) had as topic the incentives of strategic investments in the regions (*How to Attract Key Investments to the Region?*) and benefited from the participation of high representatives from EU Member States (from Romania, Poland and Sweden), as well as a representative from Ukraine. The panel organized within the framework of the Economic Forum had as topic of discussion the cultural and creative industries as growth potential of the economies in the Central and Eastern Europe (*Cultural and Creative Industries-Growth Potential for the Economies of ECE Countries*) and we were honoured to welcome the presence of the European Commissioner for education, culture, youth and sport, as well as other officials from Romania and Poland.

Other debates were also developed in partnership with several institutions: *The Change of the International Order. Implications for Romania* (European Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, 28 June), *The economic implications of Brexit* (SNSPA and the journal "European Talks", 29 June), the fourth edition of the *Romanian-German Forum on European issues* (#EURT, Berlin/14 October, Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the SWP Berlin), and so on.

The annual Conference and ceremony of the EIR Excellence Awards (reaching its 7th edition) - events of reference in the public communication plan - took place on 7 December. The Conference was organized in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bucharest, and had as main topic of debate the EU reform and the forthcoming multiannual perspective (*EU's Reform and the Next Multiannual Perspective. New Priorities, New Objectives? Challenges for Central and Eastern European Countries*). The event was attended by officials from Romania, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary, as well as high-level experts and analysts specialized in European Affairs.

With respect to the EIR Excellence Awards, in the 7th edition we have decided to bring to the attention of the public interested in European Affairs the schools and high schools in Romania with outstanding results in the project "*European School*", together with the Directorate General for Primary and

Secondary Education within the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, the promoter and the coordinator of this project. The schools and high schools that received the awards were: the No.1 School Center for Inclusive Education in Oradea, the Economic College in Buzău, the "Ion Ghica" Economic College in Târgoviște, the "Andrei Țaguna" School in Deva, the "Mihai Eminescu" National College in Baia Mare, the "Octavian Goga" National College in Sibiu and the "Ștefan Procopiu" Upper Secondary School in Vaslui.

The work carried out within the project "Network of national correspondents: Romania" was highlighted by two debates: *Atypical work contracts* (22 January) and *Atypical work in agriculture* (18 May).

In addition, special attention was given to the management and implementation of the "*Building a transparent and sustainable system of public procurement through an effective and permanent monitoring process*" project, implemented by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) "Viitorul" from Chișinău, in partnership with the EIR. In this regard, between 23-27 February a group of 10 experts from the Republic of Moldova paid a working visit to Romania. In the program were included the Launch Conference of the project in Romania (24 February), a training session in the field of public procurement (24 February) and working visits to Romanian institutions that have responsibilities in the field, as well as to non-governmental organisations (25-26 February).

Another project started in November 2016 is related to the participation of the EIR as partner, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Unit for the Preparation of Romania's EU Council Presidency (first semester of 2019), in the *campaign of public debates meant to encourage reflection on the priorities of the Romanian Presidency at the Council of the EU in 2019*. Within this campaign, three events were organised by the end of 2016: *The EU Council Presidency - opportunities and challenges. Competences development - the essential role in linking the education system with the labour market needs in Romania* (25 November, an event organized by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection of Elderly, with the support of the EIR), *A new momentum for employment given by the digital revolution* (23 November, debate as world café, EIR - CIED Bucharest) and *Economy in debate - European economy's competitiveness and the role of SMEs in stimulating economic growth and employment in the EU* (16 December, debate as world café, EIR - CIED Bucharest).

As for *promotion and visibility*, the EIR was represented by the President of the Board of Administration and/or the General Director to numerous national and international events. Also, the EIR events were reflected in the media, particularly online, through articles published by caleaeuropeană.ro (including transmission livestream), Euractiv.ro (live text), EpochTimes, Agerpres, Argumentpress.ro, Economica.net, Privesc.eu (livestream), etc. The media monitoring can be accessed online at www.ier.ro, in the archive of each event organised.

The magazine *Economistul* has published in its first issue of 2016 (18 January) an interview with Mrs. Gabriela Drăgan, Director General of the EIR. Dedicated to the anniversary moment EIR@15, the interview, that had as main topic

European Institute of Romania - cultivating the community vocation, covers the achievements of the Institute as well as a few highlights concerning the strategic directions on the short and medium term. Also, on 25 March 2016, the online Portal *Convorbiri europene.ro* published an article authored by Mrs Gabriela Drăgan, namely “A new ghost haunting Europe, the Euroscepticism ghost” ([article](#)), while the implications of Brexit have been featured in detail in an interview with Ziare.com ([article](#), 11 July).

The EIR Director General had several interventions in radio and TV broadcasts regarding European issues, she was invited in the TV show *Decriptaj* (producer Ovidiu Nahoi, RFI, 15 September, [recording](#)) and gave an interview to *Europunkt* on the topic of Romania’s accession to the Eurozone (13 October, [article](#)).

The *promotion activities* related to specific EIR products and services (training courses, events, publications, internships, etc.) have been accomplished through information and promotion leaflets distributed at the training courses or in the communication events organised. Also, the information was presented on the official EIR webpage and on the [Facebook page](#), a useful tool in promoting specific products and activities.

For more information regarding the activities and instruments for communication in European affairs, please visit www.ier.ro.

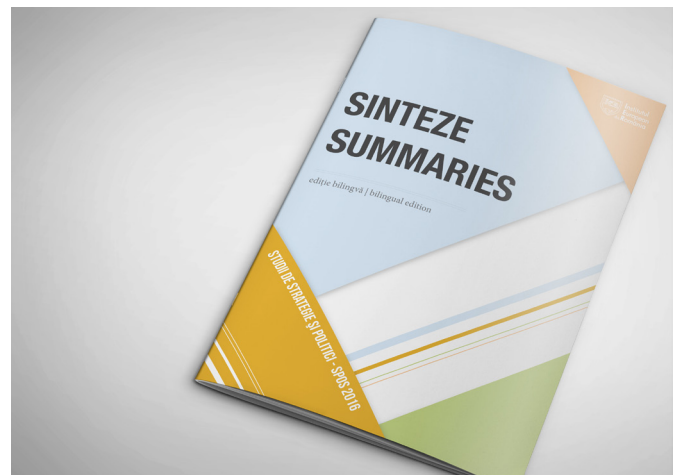
Florentina Costache
Communication and Marketing Unit

Studies and European Analyses at EIR in 2016

One of the main activities conducted by the Studies and Analyses Unit team from EIR, in 2016, regarded the **coordination of the strategy and policy studies project - SPOS 2016**, which was designed years ago to support the public administration in the policy drafting process. There were four research topics included in this project: *the energy diplomacy of the EU and Romania’s participation in the energy union; the relationship between the legal migration and the Romanian labour force market; the future of the strategic partnership between Romania and the US in the context of the TTIP negotiations and Romania’s perspective of joining the Eurozone.*

Regarding the SPOS activity, it is important to mention: the quality of the research proposals received; the impressive number of representatives from the public administration, which were designated to take part in the working groups/each study and the constructive feedback offered to the authors along the research process; the efficient dialogue with the selected teams of authors and last, but not least, the high quality of the research output. The study on Romania’s perspective of joining the Eurozone was already launched in November 2016, at the National Bank of Romania, and it is now available on EIR’s website, Publications section. The other three studies will be available for the public in the first months of 2017, following the public debates that will be organised.

In addition to the administrative and scientific coordination of SPOS 2016 project, the members of the Studies and Analyses Unit were responsible for the publication of the academic journal RJEA, writing articles, analyses, micro-studies 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 the past year, the academic publication **Romanian Journal of European Affairs**, included in various international database like Ebsco, ProQuest, Scopus, brought to the public’s attention topics such as: the EU’s Humanitarian and Civil Protection Aid programme, a EU’s perspective on the sharing economy as a factor for sustainable economic growth, the migration and the role of NGOs, the Europeanization of political parties in the Western Balkans’ states, the trade relations between the EU and Asia-Pacific countries, the Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development of the European Union, the climate policy of the European Union, Paris Agreement etc.

As part of promoting activities related to the journal, the editorial team decided in February 2016 to create a **Facebook page** in order to improve the efficiency of the dissemination in the online environment of the scientific articles published (<https://www.facebook.com/romanian.journal.of.european.affairs/>).

The six editions of the **Newsletter** hosted opinion articles and news on topics like: the EU's transition towards a circular economy, the mobility of young Europeans, the EU's Global Strategy. The July issue included a **special dossier on BREXIT**, focused on the referendum organised in the UK over the European membership. On this occasion, the editorial team invited a number of experts from Romania and abroad (Hungary, Greece, France, UK, Turkey and Bulgaria) to share their opinions over the current status and the challenges that EU will face in the future as an outcome of BREXIT.

To the **EIR micro-studies collection** were added two new papers: a Policy Brief regarding *the interests and characteristics of the Russian Federation in relationship to the West*, and a Working Paper related to the *Dynamics of EU-Turkey Relations: Current Perspectives*, both materials being available on EIR's website, in the Publications section. Also, the background paper for the annual conference of EIR was prepared in the Studies and Analyses Unit, on the topic of the *next next multianual financial framework* (available online, as part of the conference brochure from 7th of December 2016).

The Studies and Analyses Unit members participated all year long to different national and international events, with European relevance. Starting with October 2016, the unit was involved, together with the Communication and Marketing Unit, in preparing and implementing the project focused on the *public debates related to Romania's priorities in the process of preparing the Presidency of Council of European Union from 2019*. The Studies representatives had a facilitating role at several world café events.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to my colleagues Eliza Vaş, Mihai Sebe and Bogdan Mureşan and to all the other colleagues from the RJE and Newsletter editorial teams for the excellent collaboration and for their consistent contributions to the development of our specific projects.

Oana Mocanu
Studies and Analyses Unit

EIR Projects in 2016

In 2016, 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 2016, and to the drafting of new projects applications. Among the projects which are or were implemented we mention *Citi-Rights Europe!*, *Eurofound Network of Correspondents: Romania* and *Good practices exchange study visit in Iceland in the field of democracy development*.

The project *Citi-rights Europe!*, implemented in collaboration with the Training Unit and Translation Coordination Unit, was finalized in the first quarter of 2016. Experts from the European Institute of Romania were part of the team which developed a research on the role of the European Union in protecting citizens' rights and helped to highlight areas where legal rules for the protection of citizens' rights do exist and where protection is deficient. The case studies are part of the e-book "**Claim your rights**"¹ which is one of the results of the project. Another result is the poster designed² by students from "Matei Basarab" National College Bucharest which was declared winner of the European campaign "Claim your rights". The campaign was a challenge addressed to the students in order to think and to advocate for the protection of the human rights and civil rights in Europe.



As for the *Eurofound Network of Correspondents: Romania* project was extended for the second time, due to good management. The deliverables (study cases, quarterly reports, factsheets etc.) were elaborated by researchers hired by the European Institute of Romania. Also, EIR and its partners were involved in the dissemination process, by publishing on their websites information about the Eurofound publications and by organizing public debates. EIR organized two debates in January and May 2016: the first focused on *Atypical forms of employment* and the second on *Atypical labour market in the agriculture sector*.

The Projects Unit, in partnership with the Qvorum Institute and the Icelandic Human Rights Centre (ICEHR) implemented the project "Good practices exchange study visit in Iceland in the field of democracy development"³. The exchange of experience and good practices with the Icelandic partner in the project's framework provided a good opportunity to gain further knowledge and understanding of the Icelandic perspective on human rights, democracy and good governance.

¹ More information about the e-book *Claim your rights* can be found on EIR's website <http://ier.ro/stiri/rezultatele-cercet%C4%83rii-real-izate-de-institutul-european-din-rom%C3%A2nia-pe-tema-drepturilor-cet%C4%83C8%9Be>.

² The poster can be found online at <http://imgur.com/a/xAK1O>.

³ An article about the project was published in the November 2016 issue of EIR's newsletter, available at http://ier.ro/sites/default/files/pdf/newsletter_noiembrie_en_2016.pdf.

Additionally, the Projects Unit was also focused upon writing project proposals, in the framework of Erasmus +, Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria and tenders organized by UNDP Moldova or Eurofound. New partnerships were signed in 2016 with institutions from Romania, Republic of Moldova, Poland and France.

Nicoleta Voicu
Projects Unit

EIR Training in European Affairs

2016 was a year full of challenges, that caused some subsequent changes within the Training Unit activity.

The training programmes “*European Affairs and Administration*”, “*Protocol and Diplomacy*”, “*Waste Management Engineering*”, “*Computers assisted translation*” have had the same success as in the previous years, and are to be maintained in the 2017 year programme offer.

The programme “*Personal Data Protection in the European Union*” had in 2016 a high interest level, fact which led to the organization of additional sessions. As the provisions of the *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data* will be enforced starting with 25 May 2018, we shall continue to support the training of the employees with attributions in this line of work by organizing this course also in 2017.

Within the series of training programmes that target the enhancement of competences necessary to understand, define or describe the aspects concerning the elaboration of legislative documents is the programme “*Norms and Procedures of Legislative Technique*”. It has a steady increase in demand, which guarantees its presence in the 2017 training programme.

The programmes offered have attracted participants from the vast majority of public institutions and have allowed the EIR Training Unit to also maintain the collaboration with several institutions from the Republic of Moldova (National Anticorruption Centre, Legislation Harmonization Centre), institutions that have, in a constant way, sent their representatives to the organized training sessions.

In the constant attempt to better respond to the public administration demands, the first quarter of 2017 will be marked by the professional training needs process analysis. For



that purpose we intend to send to the selected institutions a request to fill in a questionnaire designed to help identify the priority development directions. The information collected will allow us to introduce in the second half of 2017 new subjects that would support the public administration priorities.

We also want to initiate a series for programmes meant to support the preparation of authorities involved in organizing the Romanian presidency of the Council of the European Union, scheduled for January - June 2019.

The Training Unit comes in the support of the requests received and adapts the training programmes any time it is possible or necessary.

In order to stay up to date with the novelties included, please visit the European Institute of Romania web page (www.ier.ro) or send us an email at formare@ier.ro in order to request to be introduced in our database.

Training Unit

EIR Translation Coordination in 2016

The objective of EIR to improve the access to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and to the Romanian law relevant to the field of European Affairs is carried out by the Translation Coordination Unit (TCU).

The translation into Romanian of ECHR case-law is carried out under the Trilateral Cooperation Protocol concluded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) and the European Institute of Romania on 6 April 2011.

With the help of the SCM, most of the translated cases have been uploaded in HUDOC (<http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/>), the online database of the ECHR. Consequently, as concerns the number of documents available online, besides the official languages (English and French), the number of translations into Romanian rank second after the number of Turkish translations.

In 2016, the TCU worked on the translation and/or revision of almost 7 000 standard pages, of which more than 95% related to the ECHR case-law.

Each ECHR case was classified according to the articles relied on and the keywords.

Another activity, related to translation, is the terminology research. Thus, in 2016 more than 500 entries were validated. Currently, the terminology database contains more than 32 000 validated entries.

TCU experts also took part in other activities such as writing articles and making presentations in their field of expertise, holding training sessions on “Computer Assisted Translation”, training interns involved in the computer assisted translation and revision of texts.

Laura Mihăilescu
Translation Coordination Unit

event

Promoting Good Practices in Protecting Unaccompanied Children and Finding Solutions for the Children, Families, Societies and States Stockholm, 8 - 9 December 2016

On 8 and 9 December 2016, the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) hosted a cross regional conference to promote good practices in protecting migrant and asylum seeking children, especially those who are unaccompanied. The conference was organised in cooperation with the Central European Initiative (CEI).

The participants represented national governments, UN Agencies, international and local organisations as well as children and young people. They shared lessons learned about safeguards and services for migrant and asylum seeking children, adolescents and young people, especially those who are unaccompanied and discussed good practices and challenges in a complex reality where many European countries are both countries of origin, transit and/or destination.

At the meeting, the **CBSS Guidelines Promoting the Human Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Transnational Child Protection Cases** were officially launched.

As a recommended good practice, the **Nordic Barnahus (Children’s House)** model seems to be the best one. The model offers comprehensive multi-disciplinary and interagency services under one roof and is increasingly used for child victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children. In a child-friendly environment, the professionals at the Barnahus collect evidence through forensic interviews and medical examinations, and offer case assessment and treatment. All processes are documented to secure evidence that informs the asylum procedure or other relevant proceedings, is admissible in court and holds a high probative value.

The presentations and discussions at the meeting revealed many other good examples of how it is possible to transform challenges into opportunities for social inclusion and cohesion. Investments in the well-being and development of migrant and asylum seeking children can support their participation and integration and activate their potential to contribute to peaceful, stable and prosperous societies in both countries of destination and origin.

The **European Institute of Romania** was represented by **Mihai Sebe**, expert in the Studies and Analyses Unit, which took part as a keynote speaker to the session **Protecting unaccompanied children abroad: The perspectives of countries of origin on transnational cooperation in child protection cases**.

His intervention tackled the Romanian case underlining the efforts done by our country in solving the refugee and migrant crisis. “Solving the challenges and problems facing the children who are coming to Romania as migrants or refugees, as well as Romanian children returning from abroad or left behind by their migrating parents, is about our future. We need to have a grassroots approach where we support local communities and authorities in promoting social and cultural integration as the key to success. In addition, there is a need for a strong and strategic communication campaign, based on facts and evidence, and an intensified public and political advocacy process.”

For full details of the event and the documents presented, please visit <http://www.childcentre.info/the-cbss-and-central-european-initiative-join-forces-to/>.

Mihai Sebe
Studies and Analyses Unit



Photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cbsssecretariat/30821683434/in/album-72157676103544472/>

ROMANIAN JOURNAL OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

A Romanian publication to focus on the European Union debate



The European Institute of Romania would like to invite contributors interested in European affairs to submit articles for evaluation and publication in the **Romanian Journal of European Affairs**, a journal indexed in various international databases (ProQuest, EBSCO, SCOPUS, Index Copernicus, DOAJ, HeinOnline, Cabell's Directory etc.).

Romanian Journal of European Affairs (RJE) is a publication that covers a wide range of topics, from top issues in EU (energy, migration, security, economic and monetary affairs, neighbourhood policy etc.) to the impact of the European integration process on the member states, as well as the EU's relations with other global actors.

Guidelines for authors:

The articles (written in **English**) should have between **4,000 and 8,000 words**, accompanied by a **200-word abstract**, a very brief autobiographical note, keywords, also in English, and **JEL** classification (if the case). Book reviews should be no longer than **2,000 words**.

The articles will be submitted in Microsoft Office Word format, Times New Roman, 12, spacing at 1.5 lines and will be sent to the address rjea@ier.ro mentioning „For RJE”. Oxford citation system is recommended.

As from 2017, the journal will be issued twice per year, in June and December. It is highly recommended to send your contribution before March 20th or September 20th.

The submission of an article implies commitment from the author to comply with the copyright policy of the Romanian Journal of European Affairs. The **Copyright Agreement** is available online.

More details can be found here: <http://rjea.ier.ro/en/page/guidelines-authors>

Selection of articles:

Each article received for publication enters a selection procedure before being accepted or rejected. All articles under analysis are made anonymous and handed over to two reviewers whose reports will provide the basis for acceptance or rejection.

Within the evaluation procedure, there are several factors, both quantitative and qualitative, that are taken into consideration. The main selection criteria are: scientific excellence, originality, novelty and potential interest for the journal's audience.

The editors reserve the right to ask the authors for changes, both in form and content, whenever necessary.

For more information on the journal and the previous issues, please visit: <http://rjea.ier.ro>.

For updates, we kindly invite you to follow us on our Facebook Page, at: <https://www.facebook.com/romanian.journal.of.european.affairs/>.

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* 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

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