



EIR newsletter

Year IV, no. 43 - 44 – July - August 2012

interview

Lucian Croitoru

Adviser to the Governor of the National Bank of Romania

Member of the Administrative Board of the European Institute of Romania



In your book “În apărarea piețelor” (In defence of the markets), recently published by Curtea Veche Publishing House (Bucharest, 2012), you state at some point that “there is a permanent fight between the state and the market”, whose outcome is “the periodical remaking of the world and of the economic environment”. Mr. Croitoru, what will the world, in general, and the economic environment, in particular, look like once the current economic and financial crisis has been overcome?

It’s been the opinion of many that the struggle between the state and the market is one of the ways through which the world is periodically re-made. William Greider wrote that this fight is waged for the central role in managing the economy. This fight generally escalates after major crises. Usually, the winner exerts a major influence on how the economy is managed in the following decades. In my opinion, there is no end in sight to the current crisis. The duration of the crisis is essential for what will happen. For the time being, the crisis has made a large part of the citizens in various countries advocate a more prominent role of the state. Understandably so, given that the crisis was associated with flaws in the world financial sector, namely with the markets. Moreover, in some cases, public sector wages exceeded those in the private sector. There have been numerous instances of soaring social security costs and the public at large finds it hard to come to terms with the necessary corrections. Nevertheless, starting 2010, more and more people came to realise that this crisis is, to a great extent, a public debt crisis. A protracted crisis will force governments to operate ... [p.2](#)

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EIR publication

Romanian Journal of European Affairs - Autumn Issue 2012

In the third RJEА issue of this year, the authors put forward interesting topics related to the EU’s contribution to the global governance architecture, the potential influence of the EU Council Presidency on the public opinion, the mobility of Romanian immigrants in Spain, Turkey’s multi-vector foreign policy and also some peculiarities of export developments in EU member countries and in Armenia ... [p.4](#)



... further corrections, which will make many people understand that only free markets can ensure sustainable economic growth. The fight between the markets and the state for playing the central role in managing the economy will continue. This fight affects the political scene in many countries. The public will assign this role to those who best understand how the markets work.

Are economic crises inevitable? Is the current economic crisis “caused by a fundamental flaw of capitalism”?

There is no fundamental flaw of capitalism that can lead to its replacement by socialism, as predicted by Marx, whom Roubini now invokes. Economic crises are inevitable since, fortunately, people are not fully rational. From time to time, people’s expectations change from sober to euphoric. Minsky explained this process very well in *Stabilizing an Unstable Economy*. Euphoric expectations fuel a high degree of confidence and thus periods of economic boom emerge. These periods are inevitably followed by crashes. The amplitude of booms and busts depends on the coherence of economic policies, built-in stabilizers and the structure of contracts. In this process, politicians, central bankers, regulators and supervisors are the managers of the capitalist system. If they promote good policies, the above-mentioned amplitudes can be relatively low. Great crises are mainly the outcome of the inappropriate management of the capitalist system.

In the current economic climate, dominated by the crisis, what are the chances for the euro to survive? At the same time, which are the appropriate measures and actions to be taken by the Member States of the Economic and Monetary Union in order to achieve a real economic recovery of the eurozone?

The eurozone was a political project that started from the premise, subsequently proved wrong, that the trends of each country’s productivity within the eurozone will eventually converge. Today we witness that an insufficient convergence of countries has led to a deep crisis, in which northern economies boast a current account surplus, whereas southern economies incur deficits. It is a balance of payments

“The euro cannot be strong in the long run without a unitary fiscal policy.”

Lucian Croitoru is the monetary policy adviser to the Governor of the National Bank of Romania. He is a member of the Administrative Board of the European Institute of Romania.

Between 1991 and 1995, he was an expert in the Economic Reform Division of the Government of Romania and, from 1995 to 1996, he was a consultant at the Bucharest Investment Group. For a year, between 1996 and 1997, he was a partner in the “Firms, Banks and Financial Distress in Central and Eastern Europe” programme, ACE Phare, and between January 2001 - May 2002, a partner in the “Public finance in transition” research programme.

In 1998, Mr. Croitoru was Chief Adviser to the Minister of Finance, before being appointed Chief Adviser to the NBR Governor, a position he held until 2003.

For four years, from 2003 to 2007, he was Romania’s representative to the International Monetary Fund as Senior Adviser to Executive Director for the Constituency whose member Romania is.

A graduate of the School of Economic Planning and Cybernetics of the Bucharest Academy of Economics, he holds a PhD in Economics and is the President of the Romanian Centre for Economic Policies.

In 1995 the Romanian Academy awarded him the “Petre S. Aurelian” Prize for the best book on economics. In 2011 he was awarded the CFA Romania Prize for the best macroeconomic paper (*Three Unemployment Rates Relevant to Monetary Policy*).

crisis. I think the short-term solution would imply a weaker single currency via several rounds of adequate quantitative easing. This will make the eurozone countries more competitive in relation, for instance, to the US and South-East Asia. But depreciation is only a temporary solution, meant to offer states some respite before promoting structural reforms aimed at bridging the gap between their productivity rates. Moreover, the EFSF or, starting from 2013, its successor, the ESM, should have enough resources available to appease market concerns about the risk of certain governments defaulting on their debt. But the EU’s political structure is rather complex and that is why decisions are delayed. At the end of the day, what the eurozone (and the entire EU, for that matter) needs is a fiscal union. The euro cannot be strong in the long run without a unitary fiscal policy.

What is your opinion on the efforts made to regulate financial markets and what would be the effects of additional regulation on European economies?

In my opinion, it is obvious that the current crisis will result in overregulation. Therefore, too many resources will be frozen in capital buffers, in other words taken out from production. Altering market freedom and the freezing of additional resources as required by the new rules will slow down economic activity and will thus reduce the growth of living standards, as suggested by many economists, including Alan Greenspan.

As concerns Romania, you state in your book that you are among “the sceptics regarding fast euro adoption”. Could you share with the readers some elements underlying this relatively sceptical attitude towards an accelerated adoption of the single currency? In this context, what would be the main challenges to Romania’s monetary policy over the period ahead?

I said Romania needs to be well-prepared for the eurozone entry. Appropriate reforms must be pushed through so that labour productivity at the time of euro adoption is sufficiently close to the average productivity in northern countries. Moreover, Romania should have the necessary resources

to generate reforms meant to ensure, after entering the eurozone, a sufficiently fast increase in productivity to prevent the emergence of diverging productivity trends. Monetary policy must remain connected to the economic realities until euro adoption. It should keep inflation at

moderate and stable levels, and thus avoid unnecessary unemployment. After euro adoption, monetary policy will of course be conducted by the ECB.

Interview by **Oana Mocanu**

analysis/opinion

Are There Political Doctrines in the European Parliament? The Need for a Distinct Approach

We are tempted to apply a reading grid specific to the national context whenever we refer to the European Union, debates about European parties included. This comes naturally, since this approach is the only one we know. However, the present article aims to make a case for a different approach. We will make the necessary distinction between the genesis of doctrines for national parties and the one that structures the affiliations in the European Parliament (EP) today, in order to offer an opening towards potential advantages of the partisan organization specific to the EP.

Our intention is not to develop the *theory of social cleavages* set out by Stein Rokkan and Martin Lipset, but to emphasize the conflicting visions which led to the crystallization of partisan doctrines.



Grounding events such as national revolutions or the industrial revolution led to the structure of visions between supporters of the centre and of the periphery, of the state and of the Church, of the rural and the urban populations, of capital owners and proletarians. These marking events have firmly established prominent worldviews and affinities. We can even state

Sursa: http://www.flickr.com/photos/european_parliament

that at the beginning of the 20th century, cleavages were already established. This concerns us in several ways. Firstly, we will keep in mind the fact that these cleavages are transnational and that, consequently, the same “spiritual families” with similar names will find themselves in numerous European States. Then, we will also take note of the fact that recent history has not brought about another fundamental and structuring event such as the ones listed above. Of course, we can take into consideration the European integration. However, as observed by Simon Hix and Christopher Lord¹, a unique left - right axis cannot be followed when relating to it. First and foremost, the European integration not only did it not introduce a new cleavage between the traditional political families, but it also brought coherence to traditionally opposing parties in domestic policy. An example would be the European Conservatives and Reformists group, uniting their forces in the EP to support anti-federalism.

It is time to underline the distinction between a European *political party* and a European *political group*. According to the Treaty of Maastricht, a European political party is a type of political party organization recognized by the European Union and eligible for European funding. The “political group” system is specific to the EP and aims to overcoming national interests. Therefore, MEPs are invited to gather in such parliamentary formations seeking representation and even the creation of purely European supranational interests. Is this an instrument intended to surmount traditional doctrines? We can say it is, at least, a way to achieve cooperation and convergence of national interests.

This vision requires a change in the theoretical approach. The basic unit a genuine European party system would relate to would no longer be the nation state but the social group, and interests would cease to be defined and articulated by national governments and would be shaped in debates within the Eurogroup. Is pluralism, negotiation and multilevel consensus the end of partisan doctrines? Is the notion of consensus between political families in antithesis with the one of confliction, aforementioned? If this cooperation at EP level will bring the end of traditional partisan doctrines is an open question. This prospect is rather remote. However, we can observe, for now, the obstacles which stand in the way of such a process, more precisely in the way of similarity in importance between national parties and European parties.

Firstly, heterogeneity of interests and of national doctrines prevents sedimentation of a single position and a firm course of action. Then, MEPs are confronted with the deficit of “embodiment of power”, because their visibility is reduced due to lack

¹ Simon Hix and Christopher Lord, *Political Parties in the European Union*, MacMillan Press, London, 1997, p.26.

of direct contact and technicalities of their attributions. In addition, there is no direct recruiting within European parties, but this is mediated by national parties, who remain the indispensable actors of the process. The indirect link with voters supports the democratic deficit theory, making EU citizens feel distanced from their representatives.

Beyond the comparison between the roles of national MPs and MEPs, we can notice several differences when it comes to the attributions and the role of the party. On the one hand, the main objective of national parties is to secure seats in Parliament, which leads to obtaining ministerial portfolios. This dynamic does not also apply in the case of the EP, since the executive function is divided between national ministerial representatives and the European Commission. In addition, national political party doctrine is also attractive by the policies it proposes, whereas this resort is not available for MEPs. Therefore, they are forced to propose rather encompassing programs, based on general principles, far from the specific interests of the citizens.

So far, we have seen that the first precaution to be taken when analyzing EP doctrines is to distance ourselves from the national model. First of all, formations within the EP are European political groups that can be comprised of one (such as the EPP) or several European parties. Collaborations between them can bring together parties with seemingly distinct orientations, such as the already mentioned Conservatives and Reformists.

The main axis that structures European groups is that of the European integration, towards which groups declare themselves as being for or completely against, as is the case for Europe for Freedom and Democracy group.

However, as noted above, the vector of integration is unlikely, at least for now, to produce a new cleavage, with the magnitude of the ones constituted by national or industrial revolutions. To this argument, we should add the fact that European parties do not enjoy the same importance and visibility as national ones.

To conclude, a specific national reading grid does not lead to the ascertainment that European parties are, at least for the time being, susceptible to produce a new cleavage. On the contrary, they seem to tend to dilute national doctrines. However, the new concepts for studying partisan dynamics - multilevel consensus, pluralism, reallocation of resources - are in need of a reinterpretation, of a more flexible approach on doctrines.

Cristina Juverdeanu, Ana-Maria Nia

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In the third RJEa issue of this year, the authors put forward interesting topics related to the EU's contribution to the global governance architecture, the potential influence of the EU Council Presidency on the public opinion, the mobility of Romanian immigrants in Spain, Turkey's multi-vector foreign policy and also some peculiarities of export developments in EU member countries and in Armenia.

Ana Postolache, Graduate MA student in European Studies at the Centre for European Studies, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, mentions in her article that the European Union needs to have a single voice, if it wants to have a significant contribution to the global governance architecture. An active phenomenon of world politics, global governance became responsible for adjusting international life in the name of the common good, relying on the power and the influence of the global key players. The aim of her paper is to analyse some strong points of the EU approach to global governance issues, looking at the internal governance system of the European Union and its analogue reflections for the global governance system. An analytical approach is used in order to identify and explore



the EU practices with regard to: world trade, climate change and international security.

Petr Kaniok, Ph.D, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, attempts to measure the influence of the EU Council Presidency on the public opinion. Regarded as an influential and useful instrument for the domestic political progress of European integration, the Presidency of the EU Council may represent a strong potential for domestic socialisation. This article investigates this idea from the public's perspective, analysing several EU Council presidencies and the potential impact of these presidencies on the attitude of voters in countries holding the Presidency towards key aspects of the EU. The hypothesis of the text refers to the supposition that the EU Presidency, in its present form, has a positive influence on the support of citizens for European integration and improvement of their information level on the EU.

In her contribution to the journal, **Silvia Marcu**, "Ramón y Cajal" Postdoctoral Researcher at the Spanish National Research Council, makes a thorough analysis of the mobility

of Romanians within Spain, taking into account the current economic crisis affecting labour markets in Spain and Romania, and its impact on people. Using the perceptions of Romanians, her article examines their experiences and their understanding of their process of mobility and return as Europeans who have a right to free movement, but limited working rights in the enlarged European Union. For this research, the author used the qualitative method of in-depth interviews with 80 Romanian immigrants engaged in labour mobility between the two countries. The article highlights the role played by borders in studies of mobility and suggests that migrants may have varying perceptions concerning place and mobility. By looking at immigrants' narratives the article seeks to create a framework that reflects the transformation of immigrants into mobile citizens within the context of the EU.

Agnes Nicolescu, acting Head of the Studies and Analyses Unit in the European Institute of Romania, reflects in her paper the multi-vector character of Turkey's foreign policy. A certain shift in the Turkish external policy has been noticeable over the last decade, which manifested in closer relations with its Arab neighbours and simultaneously a more aggressive stance towards Israel. These developments have led many researchers to say that Turkey's activism in the Middle East represents its return towards the East, at the expense of its Europeanisation aspirations. This research paper aims to study the validity of this claim by looking at different sets of interactions between Turkey and its neighbours, through a constructivist lens of competing, yet complementary, variables. The conceptual categories

proposed for assessing Turkey's conduct in relation to other states open up perspectives for exploring further cooperation interactions between Turkey and the EU, on the one hand, and with countries in their shared neighbourhood, on the other hand.

Karen Grigoryan, PhD in Economics, Associate Professor at the Department of Macroeconomics, Armenian State University of Economics, Yerevan, attempts to bring forward some of the peculiarities of export developments in EU member countries and in Armenia. The paper aims to investigate the role of integration and trade in the economic development of EU member countries and Armenia, which is one of the six countries of the EU Eastern Partnership project. Building on the studies of comparative advantages and peculiarities of the inter- and intra- trade of the various countries, this paper provides a general description of export developments and other related factors affecting economic developments in EU member countries, as well as Armenia, over the last two decades, especially before and after the world financial-economic crisis. Special attention is paid to both developed and developing EU Member States. This study theoretically and empirically examines various problems in the export structure of the countries and key elements of the recommended export development strategy.

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Oana Mocanu

publications

Germany as Viewed by Other EU Member States Almut Möller and Roderick Parkes (eds). EPIN paper, no. 30/June 2012

The EPIN recent report is dedicated to Germany's image among the EU member states and includes contributions from fourteen countries and an overview of the Gallup World Poll survey. European Policy Institutes Network (EPIN) is a network of think tanks and policy institutes focusing on European affairs. Its members are from EU and candidate countries. Currently there are 35 members from 26 countries.

The collection of reports on Germany in a hard time of crisis provides not only important information about the political support enjoyed by one of the EU powers, but also profound insight into crucial European debates concerning economic and financial crisis, CFSP and decision-making.

According to the Gallup World Poll survey¹, the approval for Germany's leadership among the EU countries is high. It exceeds 50% in fifteen countries, and Greece is only one where the disapproval is higher than approval (with 66% and 21%, respectively). Additionally, in comparison to pre-crisis 2006, the support for Germany raised significantly in seven countries (some of the EU biggest members among them: Spain, France, Italy and Poland). Nevertheless, this picture becomes more complicated when it goes into details.



¹ Nicolas Scharioth, *Changes in the Image of Germany - 2006 to 2010: Evidence from the Gallup World Poll*, in: *op.cit.*, s. 1-5; for more details about the survey methodology, see: <http://www.gallup.com/se/128171/country-data-set-details.aspx>

Although Germany serves as a model for economic growth for most of the EU countries, its anti-crisis proposals often obtained an ambivalent welcome. There is no consensus, among and frequently - within member states, about how to fight against the crisis. Still, growing call for something more than austerity measures is audible and it accompanies the appeal for Germany's solidarity. The member states are aware of both their economic ties with Germany and Germany's benefits from single market and Euro zone, and in consequence strong pro-EU steps are expected.

When in November 2011 Polish MFA Radek Sikorski made a clear statement about decisive actions that should be taken by Germany², he guaranteed Poland's support for reforms provided that it would be involved in decision-making. That is a claim that could be widely advocated. Most of the EU countries are not against the Germany's leading role, being assured that their opinions are heard and their interests respected. Many of them fear a "two-speed Europe" and opt for a more community decision-making than an inter-governmental one, which is related to the recent German politics. It is also the reason why some states would welcome strengthening of the EU institutions.

As a global power, Germany has its global interests. Nonetheless, its commitment to European integration shall not diminish, because of the other policy considerations. Tendency to "offset its financial commitments to the Euro zone with the economic and political opportunities offered by rising powers"³ is considered to be a threat to the European project. When it comes to eastern policy, Germany engagement is observed within the eastern countries as a good counterweight to traditional French policy concentrated on the Mediterranean Region. However, Germany - Russia relations raised some doubts, mainly within post-communist states⁴. Once again, the fear of unilateralism and double-standards is noticeable.

Even though Europe could see as offensive caricatures as those of Angela Merkel in a Nazi uniform or the German flag burning⁵, the post-war prejudices seem to be almost fully overcome. Nowadays anti-German feelings are strongly connected with the recent economic and financial crisis (in which Germany serves as a symbol of austerity policy). Nevertheless, they should not be underestimated. Lack of broad consensus about the policy that should be implemented to fight the crisis, problems with both states and public communication and, last but not least, states' "narcissism of small differences"⁶ are serious challenges for the EU. Bold response to them is not only a matter of dealing with recent problems, but also about long-lasting relations among the EU member states. That is why EPIN paper is worth-reading.

Marta Stormovska

Europe's World, Summer 2012 Edition

The role played by independent think tanks in the shaping of EU policy debates is often taken for granted and there is need, sometimes, for a brief reminder of their importance.

Europe's World, an original ideas platform for new thinking on political, economic and social issues, fulfills this task in a remarkable way with each new edition launched. Every 4 months, citizens and stakeholders within civil society, media, academia, business and government are encouraged to engage in a series of informed political debates, giving readers access to the latest topics on EU agenda.

Following the tradition of quality contributions it has accustomed its readers to since 2005, the 2012 summer edition offers an advised and useful insight into the main challenges facing



Europe. Since 2012 is the European Year for Water, the current issue has a special section dedicated to this vital resource and tries to bring into focus key aspects regarding water resource management at the EU-level.

In light of a major Commission-led health check on EU water policy, authors such as Johannes Lohaus, Jacqueline McGlade, Olcay Ünver and Helge Wendenburg point out that adopting a Water Framework Directive back in 2000 was a milestone for the EU, since it helped map good and consistent regulations. However, there isn't room for complacency and efforts should not be loosened. Successive EU enlargements require a great deal of investments in water supply infrastructure. In addition, a sustainable management of water as a

² http://www.msz.gov.pl/files/docs/komunikaty/20111128BERLIN/radoslaw_sikorski_poland_and_the_future_of_the_eu.pdf

³ Agnes Nicolescu, *Why Germany should rethink competitiveness: a Romanian view*, in: *op.cit.*, p. 37.

⁴ See: Agnes Nicolescu (Romania), László J. Kiss (Hungary), David Král (Czech Republic), and Agnieszka Łada (Poland) contributions in: *op.cit.*

⁵ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2101614/Greece-debt-crisis-Greeks-brand-Germans-Nazis-taking-control-economy.html>

⁶ Almut Möller and Roderick Parkes, *Conclusions: The Narcissism of Small Differences*, in: *op.cit.*, p.69-72.

resource based on a consistent EU policy cannot be limited to the water sector alone and must also take into account every major user and other segments of the economy, such as agriculture, energy and industries. Water must be seen in the broad context of building a resource-efficient low carbon green economy. Thus, core challenges for water policy must be determined in order to make concrete recommendations for action.

Further on, Javier Solana and Kemal Derviş tackle the main concern of today's Europe, in an in-depth article seeking to find out if the single currency could destroy the entire Union. Since the difficulties that the eurozone is facing now have a number of interconnected dimensions, different scenarios are being outlined, each one less desirable than the other. The worst case scenario involves a partial disintegration of the eurozone, with some areas of intra-European co-operation still in place. Nevertheless, the loss of trust followed by one or two countries' exit from the monetary union would shake the entire Union, with severe economic and political repercussions. The only desirable response to the current economic and financial crisis would be the emergence of a European "political space" and further sharing of sovereignty. According to the authors, "only more Europe can avoid a deeper crisis".

In anticipation to future enlargement of the European Union, Michael Leigh wishes to demolish the myths surrounding this process and argues that enlargement is not to be seen as the cause of Europe's illness, but as its most effective soft power tool, bringing with it many advantages. However, even if the accession process is the most effective antidote to deal with instability on the EU's doorstep support for the enlargement agenda seems to have decreased, mostly due to misperception by the public opinion. In lack of a thorough

explanation on behalf of the political leaders, with each new member state, enlargement was seen either as a reward for overthrowing communism or even an act of charity on the part of the EU, being altogether a top down process, decided by political elites, without a sense of consent by the wider public. Claiming that the recurring and sensitive debate on deepening of the integration process or further enlargement has been based on false assumptions, Michael Leigh encourages strong leadership and ingenuity from those involved in piloting this historic process.

So far, talks about the euro-crisis have only dealt with the internal economic and financial consequences. Rob de Wijk invites readers of the summer edition to think about the issue from a geopolitical point of view and see if it has weakened Europe's capability of shaping developments in an increasingly multi-polar world. He argues that Europe's political crisis will have four major consequences: a shift of focus in America's geopolitical attention towards China and a more selective US engagement, a decline in Europe's "shaping power", but also soft power and more Chinese presence on the continent.

Europe's World summer 2012 edition also offers a look into the Arab world, with key articles on the state of democracy, a checklist of targets for post UN Millennium Development Goals and views from four European capitals: Berlin, Rome, Riga and Zagreb.

The full edition can be read on the *Europe's World* website, along with previous issues: http://www.europesworld.org/NewEnglish/Home_old/ArticleIssue/tabid/183/IssueID/237/language/en-US/Default.asp

Ana-Maria Nia

Projects

Traineeships at the European Institute of Romania in the Framework of the Project POSDRU/90/2.1/S/62955 "FACILITATING TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO ACTIVE LIFE FOR STUDENTS IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMY-INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS"

According to the general objective of the *Project POSDRU/90/2.1/S/62955 Facilitating transition from school to active life for students in the field of economy-international affairs*, namely the correlation between the professional qualifications and skills of students in the field of Economy-International Affairs (EIA) and the specific skills required on the labour market, which can be acquired only through practice, at the interregional and transnational level, and given the main objectives of the European Institute of Romania, as laid down in the Ordinance establishing the EIR (namely to increase the knowledge and skills of various social and professional categories in the field of economic affairs and to contribute to the development of the European spirit and values), the European Institute of Romania, as a partner institution in the project, organised in the period *May-July 2012* internships for a number of *17 students* of the Academy of Economic Studies, the Faculty of International Economic Relations (15 students), the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University, Iași (1 student) and the „Ovidius" University, Constanța (1 student).

The practical traineeship program spans over *60-90 working hours* in total, over a period of 2-3 weeks (depending on the internal regulations of each university), and it was intended, on the one hand, to verify the applicability of the theoretical knowledge acquired by trainees in the framework of the education program and to convey new knowledge necessary for active life, on the other hand.

To this end, the trainees benefited from a series of training modules that focused on improving theoretical knowledge in the field of European affairs (the presentation of the coordination system for European affairs in Romania, the role and the operating

mechanism of the European Institute of Romania) and in the field of employees' rights and obligations (the presentation of the provisions of the Labour Law and the Individual Contract of Employment) in order to prepare for active life. The training activity also focused on the presentation of legal provisions in the field of internship. The role of the theoretical training hours was to provide the trainees with a minimum set of knowledge, meant to transform them into informed citizens who can make informed decisions in the professional and academic field. The goal was to prevent possible abuse due to the lack of knowledge of the legislation in force.

The trainees were actively involved in the current activities of the Institute, participating together with the employees in its activities. Nevertheless, "la pièce de résistance" of the practical traineeship program was represented by the study visits organised in national and international institutions, as well as the participation in various events and conferences.



The traineeship agenda included the presentation of the operating mechanism and the current problems of the institutions directly involved in European affairs (Ministry of Administration and Interior - General Directorate for European Affairs and International Relations; the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of Romania, the European Commission Representation in Romania and the European Parliament Information Office in Bucharest). The goal was to achieve a constructive dialogue on European topics by giving the students the opportunity to come into contact with the personnel responsible for these fields. Thereby, a direct transfer of practical knowledge was achieved, while a series of questions of the trainees regarding the above-mentioned fields were clarified.

The presentation of international non-governmental institutions and organisations (United Nations Information Centre, World Vision Romania) was granted an important role. Issues related to international realities, perspectives for taking part in voluntary actions, the development assistance policy were debated. On this occasion, attempts were made to create a "critical mass" of persons interested in the field, persons who, based on the information acquired, will act appropriately in today's and tomorrow's globalised society.

Since we believe a direct contact between students and professionals in various fields is needed, students participated in a series of international conferences and events that took place in Bucharest while the internships were being carried out. The variety of themes on the agenda (international cooperation in the field of development assistance, discrimination and harassment in the workplace, etc.) facilitated the students' contact with new aspects of active life.

At the end of the traineeship period, students had to draw up a Practice journal, together with a Case study on a specific subject they came across during the internship. We estimate that, at this stage, the project fulfilled its declared objectives, allowing an increased interaction of students with the professional environment in the field of international affairs.

For more detailed information on the project, please visit our web page dedicated to the projects developed by the European Institute of Romania (http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/departament_page/18) and the Electronic platform of the project (<http://www.rei.ase.ro/practica/index.html>).

Mihai Sebe

Teachers' Professional Training on European Themes

If it's summer and vacation, it's study time! Therefore, teaching professionals who are in search of new information in the field of European Affairs had the opportunity to take part in a training course tailored to their needs.

The course was held between 9 - 14 July in Iasi and 16 - 21 July in Bucharest for teaching staff in the primary and secondary education stages. Each group had 2 days of intensive course where they were in a position of listener as well as speaker. The activity of the training program was 70% practical so that the teachers worked in groups, made presentations and delivered their lesson plan drawn up together with their team colleagues.





The purpose of these courses is for teachers to find out how they can attract students towards the subjects approaching European themes in an interactive manner.

The teaching professionals involved in the project will constitute a group of national trainers made up of primary and secondary school teachers aiming to promote the updating and modernization of the contents and teaching methods in lessons on the European Union, its policies and institutions, the rights and duties of its citizens and the European citizenship.

Each training centre where the course was organised accommodated teachers from several counties: 13 counties were represented in Iasi and 15 in Bucharest, by teachers of Romanian Language, Foreign Languages, Biology, Geography, Mathematics, IT, Psychology, History, Constructions, Civic Culture, Chemistry and Economy.

Since classroom activity is evaluated by grades, our teachers too were given grades for their course activity and the presentation of their portfolio work - the lesson plan on a European subject. Grading allows them to obtain the certificate attesting 4 transferable professional credits.

Here are some opinions on the course given by the participant teachers:

- *Explanations were transmitted in a clear form, dressed up in specialised language, in an interactive and argumentative manner* (course participant, Iasi, primary education);
- *Very thorough information, up-to-date and conveyed in an exceptional manner* (course participant, Iasi, secondary education);
- *A course that is adequate to the realities of the political, economic and social life of Romania within the EU* (course participant, Iasi, secondary education);
- *Very good overall level of the course in a context in which education is confronted with many challenges* (course participant, Bucharest, primary education);
- *High degree of applicability, up-to-date, trainers who support the creativity and the expression of the participants* (course participant, Bucharest, secondary education);
- *The course was very useful and well structured. The atmosphere was extraordinary!* (course participant, Bucharest, secondary education).

The project *Teachers' Professional Training on European Themes* is being implemented by EIR in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports. The purpose of this project is to deliver 9 training sessions for 305 teaching professionals from all over the country in sessions carried out in Bucharest, Iasi and Cluj Napoca, in the field of European Affairs. The contract has a value of EUR 59 469 for the period October 2011 - September 2012. The project was submitted following the tender PN/2011-11/BUC launched by the Representation of the European Commission in Romania.

I will be back in September with impressions from our participants in Cluj!

Cornelia Predoiu

EP

Start for the Cypriot Presidency of the Council Strasbourg Plenary Session 2-4 July 2012

3 July

As expected, the **Conclusions** of the European Council Meeting (28-29 June 2012) and the **statements** of the European Council and Commission on this theme represented one of the strong themes of this session, besides the **review** of the Danish presidency and the **program of activities** of the Cypriot presidency of the Council. The moment of the presidency take-over is characterised by analysts as dramatic for Cyprus, which has less than one million inhabitants. Cyprus is preparing to solicit a rescue package for its banks and is facing tensions in its relations with Turkey. The Cypriot officials are nevertheless enthusiastic and declared they can achieve their objectives.

The results of the European Council of 28 and 29 June were presented by the European Council President Herman Van Rompuy in Parliament, being appreciated by the MEPs as a step in the right direction, but which was made with delay.

The "state of emergency" in the European Council was brought up by the European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, underlining that beside consolidation, the sustainable growth, solidarity and responsibility must also be stimulated. The debate on growth must be simultaneous with the debate on long-term EU budget, and Mr. Barroso asked for an agreement until the end of the year, as the European banking union is an indispensable step towards a real economic and monetary union.



Sursa: http://www.flickr.com/photos/european_parliament

4 July

The reports of the EP Committees addressed various subjects during this session: *attractiveness of investing* in Europe; *organic production and labelling of organic products*; *mandate for trilogue* as concerns the EU 2013 draft budget; recommendations addressed to the Commission on the access to *basic banking services*; a new 112 service for European citizens: *eCall* (in the field of Internal Market and Consumer Protection); EU strategy for the *protection and welfare of animals*. A draft resolution was also presented for the establishment of an EU legal framework for the protection of pets and stray animals.

The Committee on International Trade formulated a recommendation referring at the Council draft decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between EU and the Russian Federation on the introduction or increase of export duties on raw materials.

Four resolution drafts formulated by the parliamentary groups were presented starting from the Conclusions of the European Council meeting (28-29 June 2012). These texts evaluate from different ideological points of view the current situation and the meeting's conclusions, express different opinions on the progresses made, showing that:

- the current economic and social crisis is the result of the EU neoliberal policies for the promotion of the deregulated financial markets, of the liberalised markets of products and services, for the increase of the financial character of economy and the reduction of public investments and stronger deregulation of the labour market (The Group for the United European Left/ Nordic Green Left Group);
- the concern that the „Pact for economic growth and jobs” imposes an intense appeal to the collective pressure at the introduction of the new economic and fiscal governance powers (Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group);
- welcomes the recognition of the fact that a series of precise differences exists between the euro area Member States and states outside the euro area concerning different fields in any new framework, which are, especially, related not so much to the Single Market, as to the function of the Monetary Union (European Conservatives and Reformists Group);
- welcomes the statement of the Heads of State or Government concerning the consolidation of the Single Market governance; firmly supports the Commission in relation to the evaluation of the internal market situation and requires that measures be taken for the full achievement of the Internal Market (Greens/European Free Alliance).

The Council and Commission statements concerning the *Breaches of Schengen rules* (on the travel, residence rules, control of persons) were followed by debates in which MEPs referred in critical terms to the Council decision to exclude EP from Schengen area management and asked for the identification of the states infringing the Schengen Agreement rules.

In the field of foreign affairs, the Vice-president of the Commission/High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy presented separate statements concerning the situation and local conflicts in Georgia, Syria and Egypt.

Other documents discussed were the Commission statement on the **Outcome of the Rio +20 summit** (20-22 June 2012); an EU draft resolution concerning the Council position regarding the EU draft amending budget no. 3/2012 for the 2012 financial year. MEPs underlined that for growth there is a need of much more integration, inclusively at the budget level.

There is also a visible trend among MEPs asking for a single establishment for the European Parliament.



Sursa: http://www.flickr.com/photos/european_parliament

Perhaps the most awaited moment was ACTA's rejection by EP, after the report presented by David Martin (Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats Group), who underlined once more the concerns with the fact that this agreement is too vague and open for the wrong interpretations. The EP vote was motivated by the fact that this agreement could endanger the citizens' freedoms. Nevertheless, the debates and the report insisted that it is necessary to identify some alternative solutions for protecting the intellectual property in the European Union, especially since it represents here „the raw material of the economy”. Although ACTA was negotiated by EU (and by its Members States), by USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and Switzerland, in order to improve the measures for the implementation of the law on the fight against counterfeiting at international level, the EP's vote means that neither EU nor its Member States can sign this agreement.

For details, please visit <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ro/>

Mariana Bara

Call for Working Papers – 2012 EIR Micro-Studies Series

The European Institute of Romania welcomes potential authors from various fields of activity, including researchers from University centers and Academy institutes, who can contribute to tackling topics that are specific to the field of European affairs and offers to publish their micro-studies online as part of the EIR collection - Working Papers Series.

The **Micro-Studies (Working Papers) Series**, coordinated by EIR, analyse topics which are relevant and adapted to the current domestic and European context. The Working Papers support the exchange of ideas scientifically substantiated and facilitate the dissemination of information and opinions for the shaping up of a Romanian perspective with regard to European processes.



Guide for authors

The micro-studies can be published in Romanian or in a bilingual issue, in Romanian and English. They must be between 25 and 35 pages, and also include an abstract in English, as well as a short autobiography of the authors. Micro-studies must feature the structure of the paper, detailed in chapters, as well as bibliographical references.

The text or the annexes of the study can include tables, graphs or sketches, in support of the argumentation. It is highly recommended to avoid an over-specialized language, as well as the excessive use of mathematical formula.

Papers will be written in Microsoft Office Word, 12 Times New Roman font, at 1.5 spacing and can be submitted, throughout the year 2012 at the e-mail address agnes.nicolescu@ier.ro, with the specification „For EIR Micro-Studies Collection”.

Selection of papers

Each paper proposed for publication undergoes a selection process before being accepted. During the evaluation procedure, a series of factors, both qualitative and quantitative, are taken into consideration.

Should a paper be accepted, the editorial board has the right to edit the materials, when necessary, while keeping the spirit of the original paper.

Starting with 2010, the submission of a Working Paper for evaluation and further publication in Working Papers Series entails the author’s acceptance of the copyright policy of the Working Papers Series.

For further information please visit http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/page/seria_working_papers

TRAINING IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AT EIR – October 2012 –

AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE - VISAS, ASYLUM, IMMIGRATION AFTER LISBON

8 - 9 October

Contact person: Gigi Mihăiță, Training Unit, 021 314 26 96 phone extension 134

Includes information about: the institutions specific for the achievement of this sector policy; the legal instruments by which it is achieved; the influence of the European jurisdiction upon the protection of the free movement of persons and of human rights; the evolution of the policy and of the European regulation as concerns the free movement.

Given that the registration of participants for this second session of 2012 is already finished, which indicates the interest of the target audience for this topic, EIR will also organize this training programme in 2013.

PROJECT MANAGER

15 - 19 October

Contact person: Mariana Bara, Training Unit, 021 314 26 96 phone extension 114

This training programme, authorized by CNFPA, is a specialist training with application at the level of the projects financed from European funds and it has as main objective the acquisition of key competences for the projects' elaboration, planning and monitoring and resources management, including the management of risks and of the project team. The registration of participants may be done until 12 October.

At the graduation, you will receive a certificate recognized by the *Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection* and by the *Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport*.



INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN LAW

29 - 31 October

Contact person: Cornelia Predoiu, Projects Unit, 021 314 26 96 phone extension 150

The registration of participants for this session has already been concluded. We would like to invite you to this training programme in 2013.

Advantages of our training programmes:

- rich **content** of information based on the development of concrete and relevant competencies
- **trainers** with solid education and experience in the programme theme, as well as in teaching the training sessions
- moderate **fees**
- central **location**

For other details (dates, registration), please visit the website www.ier.ro, section *Training in 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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