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Preparing for the Romanian Presidency of the Council – engaging the universities



As part of the public debates campaign dedicated to the preparation of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (CEU) in the first semester of 2019, the European Institute of Romania (EIR) has recently organized a series of debates and round tables in university centres from Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca and Iași. The discussions' agenda focused on several newsworthy European topics such as: *the European Union's trade policy, regional development and the reform of the cohesion policy post-2020, the EU reform and the future of the European project*. At these events, the European Institute of Romania was represented by Mrs. Gabriela Drăgan, Director General ... **p. 2**

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training _____

Preparing for the Romanian Presidency of the Council - The training programme for civil servants

Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January 2019 represents an opportunity, and at the same time a challenge, to bring our contribution in a real manner to the consolidation of the European project ... **p. 3**



The first debate connected to this campaign - **The regional development and the reform of the cohesion policy post-2020** - was held at Iași, on **20 October 2017**, where EIR and the Centre of European Studies within the Faculty of Law, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have brought into discussion several subjects concerning: the opportunities and challenges of regional development, the identification of the prerequisites that could lead to an effective absorption of the European funds, the outlining of some key areas for development and establishing the budgetary priorities. In the official discourse, Mr. **Victor Negrescu**, Minister Delegate for European Affairs, has addressed the link between the future cohesion policy and Romania's term at the helm of the CEU in the first half of 2019, recalling: *«Our aim is to be an honest broker in holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, but, in preparing for this moment, Romania supports the preservation of a strong and effective cohesion policy after 2020, bringing solid arguments that argue why it should be reflected in an appropriate amount in the future multiannual framework».*



opportunity to assess the process of reflection on the future of the European Union, and above all, to lay the foundations of the new Strategic Agenda for the 2019-2024 period».

Continuing with **November 16, 2017**, EIR, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized the round table - **EU's trade policy. Challenges and priorities**. The event was part of the International Conference on the «Future of Europe», set-up annually by the Faculty of International Business and Economics (IBE) within the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. In chairing the discussions alongside with Mr. Gheorghe Hurduzeu, IBE Dean, Mrs. Gabriela Drăgan, Director General of EIR, recalled that, as a result of the economic crisis, the rules for negotiating new trade agreements have changed, and at the national level, respectively in academia there is a discussion related to the new way of negotiating trade agreements - *do discussions take place at bilateral or multilateral level?* In this context, Mrs. Gabriela Crețu, Senator, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee within the Romanian Senate, pointed out that: *«Brexit is about what we are able to learn concerning the European citizenship and the rights associated to it. It is also about how not to create a negotiating precedent showing that it is possible to sit outside the EU, but to have more advantages than when you're inside of it».*



More details on these events can be found on EIR's website.

Eliza Vaș
Studies and Analyses Unit

Preparing for the Romanian Presidency of the Council - The training programme for civil servants

Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January 2019 represents an opportunity, and, at the same time, a challenge to bring our contribution in a real manner to the consolidation of the European project.

The preparation process was recently accelerated within the framework of several interministerial formats. One of the objectives targeted by the Interministerial Council for the Preparation of Romania's Presidency of the CEU, a structure with the role of establishing the guidelines and action priorities in this context, is that of training the available human resources.

The EU Council Presidency requires from each Member State a very well equipped administrative capacity from the point of view of competencies and expertise. We all understand that this task requires huge administrative and design efforts from the public administration employees and not only.

For this purpose, in order to support the civil servants involved, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has initiated and coordinates the "*The training programme for civil servants in view of Romania's Presidency of the European Union Council 2019*", implemented by the European Institute of Romania in October - December 2017.

This training programme consists of seven modules, two for English language abilities development (one for the intermediary, other for the advanced module) and five modules of general EU affairs (*EU Institutions, Legal System of the EU, Decision-Making Process in the EU, EU Economic Policies, EU Foreign Policy*).

The modules are developed and delivered by high-level experts from the Romanian academia, both from the University of Bucharest and the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, the classes taking place within the premises of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies.



More than 250 civil servants, that are going to be Presidents and Vice-presidents of their respective working groups, are being included in this training programme.

The programme thus continues the Government strategic line of preparation of the civil servants in order to assume European level responsibilities. We generate an important qualitative leap at the level of decision factors from the central public administration and also an active process of development of the European spirit and values.

Through the active involvement of the academia in the training programme the European Institute of Romania in its capacity as an institution responsible with the implementation of the training programme helps in establishing new bridges between various parts of the society, aiming at the same time at one of its core objectives, that of increasing the level of knowledge and competence of the civil servants in the field of European Affairs.

EIR Training Unit

Conference: Romania and its road towards the euro area

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by the Minister Delegate for European Affairs, together with the European Institute of Romania organized the debate "*Romania and its road towards the euro area*", on 13 November 2017. The event was attended by representatives of the central public administration, the academic environment, experts in fields relevant to the topic discussed and the media. The public debate organized by MFA and EIR is part of a series of technical meetings aimed at establishing a roadmap for joining the euro area.

In the opening speech, Mr **Victor Negrescu**, Minister Delegate for European Affairs, stressed the relevance of such a debate topic, taking into account the significance of the euro



area for Romania. In the opinion of Mr Negrescu, **it would be opportune for Romania to join the euro area, but it is more important that our country is prepared for this step.** He noted that successful membership is based on the implementation of national mechanisms and the fulfillment of the admission criteria, and that in this process, we will need the participation of various institutional actors, as well as predictability and political support.



The following discussion sessions, attended by Mr Daniel Dăianu, Mr Napoleon Pop, Mrs Aura Socol, Mrs Andreea Paul, as well as other specialists in the field, and moderated by Mrs Gabriela Drăgan, Director General of EIR, offered a more technical and focused approach:

- There is a need to relaunch the European project, institutionally and politically (Gabriela Crețu);
- Romania meets the nominal convergence criteria for joining the euro area, but from a structural point of view the gaps are still considerable;
- Romania registered an average growth rate of 3.68% in the period 2007-2016;
- The mere fulfillment of the Maastricht criteria of convergence is not sufficient for the successful integration of a state into the euro area unless it is accompanied by profound reforms in real and structural convergence (Valentin Lazea);

- Transition to the euro is a process that depends both on Romania’s readiness and on the European Union’s openness and level of reform (Gabriela Drăgan);
- We live in a fragmented global world, composed of "blocks", and EU members paradoxically struggle for a "United Union" (Daniel Dăianu);
- Romania’s target should be a more robust economy in a robust euro area. Romania has national interests to defend within the European Union and the euro area, and a pre-accession program can help by implementing the necessary reforms and fulfilling the real and structural convergence criteria (Daniel Dăianu);
- The fundamental problem is that the introductory parts of the treaties of the European Union have not been read for a long time, thus we risk forgetting the fundamental stake of Romania’s EU accession: the development and modernization of the country in a secured political and economic space (Napoleon Pop);
- The current reflection process on the reform of the European Union is an opportunity for Romania to leave the periphery and to capitalize on its geostrategic position (Napoleon Pop);
- If a state wishes to enter the euro area, it must work on a cost-benefit analysis responsibly, referring to three coordinates: the gaps in development in comparison with the rest of the members of the Union; synchronizing business cycles across the euro area; structural convergence (Aura Socol);
- "If we do not bring the euro in Romania, the Romanians will go to the eurozone", all institutions should have a certain role in making the idea of the euro popular and increasing the awareness and acceptance among the population (Andreea Paul);
- Trust is the determining factor in the European project and requires a sustained dialogue in which the entire European community will participate (Radu Ștefan Oprea);
- Romania’s accession to the euro area needs to be considered as a serious project, with political support and based upon a sound economic analysis.



The full event report may be accessed on EIR’s website.

Tiberiu Nica
Projects Unit

EIR round table: Innovative transport networks for boosting mobility inside the Single Market



On 18 October 2017, the European Institute of Romania (EIR) organized a round table with the general theme of **Innovative transport networks for boosting mobility inside the Single Market**, an event which took place in the framework of a broader public debates campaign aimed at Romania’s preparation for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first semester of 2019. Representatives of the central public administration, academic milieu, experts in relevant fields and media took part in the event.

In opening the discussion, Mrs. **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General of EIR, has highlighted the relevance and timeliness of the debate, adding that one of the 10 entities which will be presided over by Romania during the first half of 2019 will be the Transport, Telecommunications & Energy Council.

In his official address, Mr. **Cristian-Gabriel Winzer**, State Secretary, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has pointed out that his institution has three main lines of action: extending the public debate on European topics nationwide; the full implementation of the public consultation, communication and debate forum EU-RO

2019; launching the official Presidency’s site by the end of this year. **“The future of the EU is a digital one and Romania’s level of competitiveness will to a large extent depend on whether it will be able to adapt and make good use of the digitalization’s benefits”**, the State Secretary added, in connection to the main topic of the discussion.

During the rest of the session, various aspects were brought up by the other speakers:

- In Romania, we elaborate complex strategies, like the General Transport Master Plan, but the implementation phase sometimes lacks coherence and steadiness.
- The rhythm of the investments in the transport infrastructure will need to be accelerated in order to avoid further development gaps as compared to other Member States.
- Even though the General Transport Master Plan is a highly controversial strategic document in Romania, it serves as a model put forth by the European Commission for other Member States.
- The digitalization process should be a priority for Romania and for the EU, but, at least in Romania’s case, before even seriously discussing about innovative transport networks, we ought to make sure that the more traditional infrastructure is fully functional.
- The introduction of the sustainable urban mobility plan concept in the Romanian legislation may lead to an increase of various towns and smaller communities’ accessibility and to a better integration of the different means of transportation and mobility.
- In general, transport is a multidisciplinary domain with a major political dimension.

The full Event Report may be accessed on EIR’s website.

Bogdan Mureșan
Studies and Analyses Unit

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania

The translation of working documents of the public administration institutions in Romania (ministries, agencies etc.) in other languages is a particularly important process for a good collaboration with the partner institutions of the European Union and with other international institutions. On the one hand, a good translation enables a correct understanding and, thus, a viable dialogue or a successful negotiation; on the other hand, the inadequate translation, particularly that of Romanian



legislation, might lead to misunderstandings which could entail the accountability of the institutions concerned.

Given the objectives of the European Institute of Romania (EIR), especially those of coordinating translations at national level (Article 3, item c) of Order 15 of 1998), EIR conducted from 4 to 20 October 2017 an analysis of the needs for translations of Romanian legislation in the public institutions.

For an overview of the translating activity, EIR contacted 37 public institutions and asked them to answer a questionnaire in order to assess the translation needs within the institution and to provide a contact person in view of a future collaboration.

The questionnaire comprised questions with a closed answer (Yes/No) and also some questions that required an open answer (Others...; Please mention...).

The results of this analysis of the need for translations were presented at a round table on the *Challenges of translation in Romania's public institutions*, organised on Thursday, 26 October 2017, at EIR's premises.

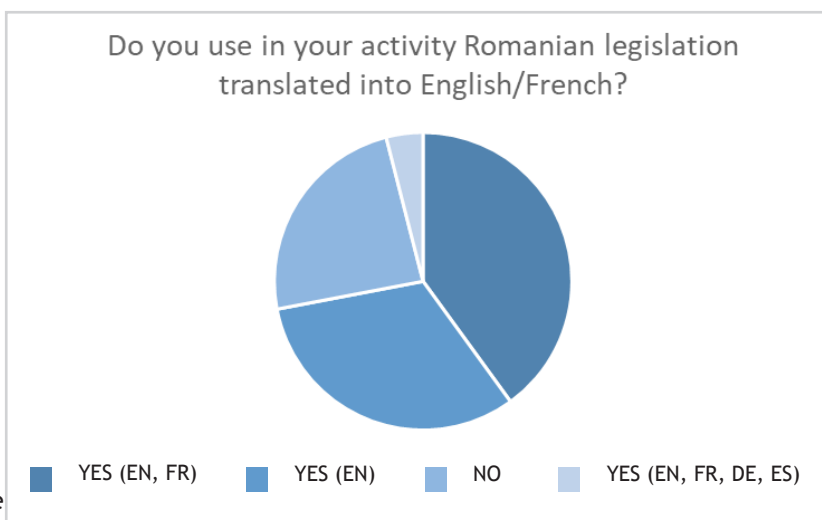
The response rate was 67.56%.

76% of the respondent institutions use in their activity Romanian legislation translated into other languages (mainly English and French, but also German and Spanish).

The question “Do you consider it necessary that all translations be collected at the national level and published in an online free access database?” was given a negative answer by only one institution.

As shown in the graph, 44% of the respondent institutions mentioned that they have translations of Romanian legislative acts in other languages.

60% of all respondent institutions mentioned that they agree to transmit the order to be centralized at the national level.



Although most of the institutions stated that they resort to their own human resources to perform the translations, only two of the institutions have a department with translating responsibilities within its organisational structure. However, even if a certain institution does not have a specialised unit, there are employees with translating responsibilities. For situations when there is a need for a larger volume of translation, or specialised translations are required, the institutions resort to translating firms or external authorised translations.

The analysis conducted by EIR showed that there is a need for translations in the public institutions, especially into English and French, but also into less widely circulated languages, depending of the specific activities of the institution concerned.

The vast majority of respondents, as it results from the analysis of the responses, consider that it would be useful to centralise on a national level Romanian legal acts translated into other languages.

To address this need, EIR intends to develop the database available online, especially the section *Translated Romanian legal acts*, resorting, in the first stage, to the help of other institutions in order to centralise translations that already exist and, at a later stage, revising these acts for terminological and stylistic uniformity.

We therefore appreciate that centralising the translations of Romanian legal acts into English and French is an endeavour necessary for streamlining the activity and the collaboration of the public institutions in Romania with the partner institutions in the European Union and other institutions outside the country, while avoiding the situations where the same document is translated several times in different institutions.

Mihaela Moncea
Translation Coordination Unit

A unique model for local cooperation - Romania and Belgium



Between 12 and 14 October 2017, ADR-Vlaanderen and OVR-WB, with the support of the Romanian Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Belgium Embassy to Bucharest, organized the 6th edition of the **Forum on the Decentralized Cooperation - Romania - Belgium (FOBERO)**. The series of events began in 2006, taking place regularly every 2 years in Romania and Belgium, respectively.

The bilateral relationship has a long history (in 1838, Belgium set up its first Consulate at Galați), and the cooperation at the local level started during the Communist times, when following the radical policy of rural systematization in Romania, several Belgian citizens formed the movements **Operation Villages Roumains (OVR) / Actie Dorpen Roemenië (ADR)** in order to support the villages and the inhabitants of the rural areas affected by this policy. Consequently, the first grassroot initiatives happened before 1989, mostly in the form of humanitarian aid sent from Belgium to the adopted villages, and later on the activities have taken the form of *sustainable solidarity*, namely support for the development of rural communities.

In this spirit FOBERO was created, and the 2017 edition has been linked to the discussion regarding decentralised cooperation in a Europe finding itself in the process of change, but with strong anchors in strategies such as *Europe 2020* or *2030 Agenda for sustainable development*. In the three days of the event, representatives from Romania and Belgium, working in various fields (academia, non-governmental, political, economic or social) have been invited to speak.

On the first day of the event, presentations were held on the following topics: corporate social responsibility (Ștefan Sima, economic counsellor to the Romanian Embassy in Belgium), 4.0 (Thomas Baekelandt, Belgian Ambassador to Romania), social mapping (Patrick Van de Nieuwenhof, collaborator of ADR-Vlaanderen), Romania's economic approach (Dominique Tourneur, inspector general for European markets within the Walloon Export and Foreign Investment Agency), a Social Europe for youth (Gabriela Goudenhoft, professor at the University of Oradea), decentralised cooperation from a capital city point of view (Daniel Florea, Mayor of the 5th Sector, Bucharest).

Thereupon, **Eliza Vaș**, expert within the Studies and Analyses Unit, **European Institute of Romania**, was invited to present the Report «*Romania - 10 years in the European Union*» and to speak about the benefits brought by the accession, but also about the changes that have taken place in the society during that period of time. The presentation began with a series of questions addressed to the public:

1. *Is Romania more competitive, economically speaking, as an outcome of the accession to the EU? (the majority of the answers were affirmative)*
2. *Do Romanians perceive themselves as being European citizens? (the answers were divided);*
3. *Is Romania likely to adopt the Euro by 2020? (the answers were rather negative);*
4. *Will Romania support a further integration of the European Union? (most of the replies were affirmative).*



Subsequently, the main ideas conveyed in the presentation were reflected in the diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community, the accession process to the EU, the challenges the Union has undergone during the period of 2007-2017 (the crises in the Eastern neighbourhood, the economic and financial crisis, the existential one etc.), the trends in citizens' trust in the EU during the accession years, but also specific macroeconomic developments or achievements in various sectors of activity. Concrete examples related to this last aspect focussed on: the increase in GDP to almost 60% of the EU28 average, the Romanian products that entered the European market grew by nearly 5%, the upgrading of legislation and the improvement of the consumer protection standards etc.

Furthermore, the speech delivered by the Belgian Ambassador, Mr. Thomas Baekelandt, included a series of recommendations designed to facilitate the access of Belgian investors on the Romanian market. Starting from the

technological advance and changes on the labour market, Mr. Thomas Baekelandt stated the following: *It is also clear that the manufacturing tradition in Romania together with the top-level IT industry in this country are major assets that can influence the investment decision. The Romanian authorities have to take into account this new reality if they want to further attract foreign investments in manufacturing. Investments in manufacturing sites, with easy access to international transport and with reliable utilities like power generation and distribution, have to be maintained. Furthermore, a constant care for high quality education in vocational schools, high schools, technical colleges, and universities to develop an ongoing flow of workers versed in and attracted to advanced digital and physical manufacturing technologies is a policy that will benefit not only the industry but certainly future employment in the region.*

Coming back to the event’s agenda, various workshops were held in parallel in the 2nd day, on topics related to local health systems, the ageing population, young people and their involvement in the community, re-training and the integration of migrants, the reduction of poverty in rural areas and rural development, culture and cultural exchanges. A few notable examples presented during the discussions were those related to the use of alternative spaces intended for mining (the venue of the Forum used to be a former mining complex that was transformed, as a result of the mines closure, in an area with multifunctional conference rooms, a Museum and other creative spaces).

Another example, this time from Romania, referred to the Mutual Aid Association Slatina-Timiş (A.D.A.M.S.), a non-profit organization, which was established with the help of several NGOs in Belgium and the Foundation for Development of Mutual Aid Associations from Romania. A.D.A.M.S. provides medical and social services, on the principle of solidarity. In addition, it includes a Local Council of Health (CLS). CLS consists in volunteers and professionals from a certain village/municipality/city, who carry out actions for improving the health status in the community. Such groups exist since 2008, being established in several communes in Romania (Bordeşti, Cerchejeni, Sănduleni, Borşa, Stremţ, Viscri, Apold, Cehu Silvaniei, Caiuţi, Hurezani, Bucosniţa).

As it can be noticed, there is a profound level of decentralised cooperation between Romania and Belgium, and the multitude of initiatives at the grassroot level that have been developed in common until now denotes a special closeness between the citizens of the two countries. As said by one of the Forum participants, in an informal discussion, «*once you’ve been to Romania and met the people from there, you always come back. You will find in the Romanian villages an authenticity you will wish to contribute to as a Belgian citizen*».

Eliza Vaş
Studies and Analyses Unit

eTranslation at the disposal of public institutions

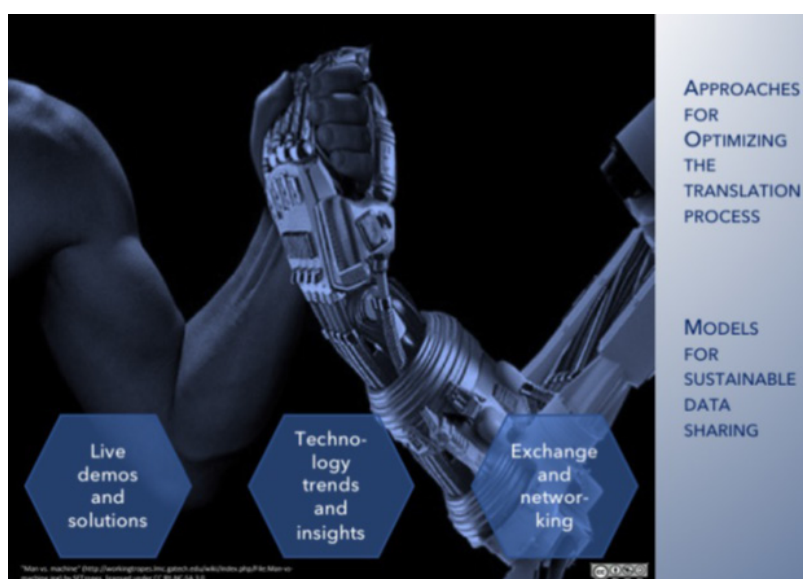
Launched on 15 November 2017, *eTranslation* is the machine translation service provided by the European Commission, free of charge for the public institutions of the Member States.

More information, including steps for registration, is available on https://ec.europa.eu/info/resources-partners/machine-translation-public-administrations-mtec_en.

eTranslation was mentioned at the third ELRC conference (European Language Resource Coordination), which took place on 7 and 8 November in Brussels.

ELRC programme has been designed to collect linguistic and mono/bilingual translation data in order to develop the automated translation CEF.AT platform, which will remove language barriers and will better respond to the current needs of the public services in the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway (30 states).

eTranslation builds on the MT@EC machine translation system and represents a step forward in the development of the automated translation CEF.AT platform.



Developed under CEF (*Connecting Europe Facility*), CEF.AT supports the Digital Single Market and seeks to facilitate multilingual communication and exchange of documents and other language data between Europe's national public administrations and between these administrations and citizens/businesses in the EU. The platform will support online European public services such as Europeana, e-Justice, e-Procurement, e-Health, Open Data Portal, Online Dispute Resolution.

A series of translation software and applications were presented during the conference, such as: **eTranslation TermBank**; **eTranslation for the EU Council Presidency**), **IADAATPA** (platform integrating *eTranslation*, which will provide services to the public sector, see <https://www.pangeanic.com/news/iadaatpa-pangeanic-awarded-the-largest-eu-contract-by-cef/>), **TranslationQ** (software with a revision memory, see <https://www.televic-education.com/en/translationq>), **SYSTRAN** (provider of translation software, see <http://www.systransoft.com/>), **Kantan Neural MT** (machine translation, see <https://www.kantanmt.com/>), **PMKI** (project aiming at the cross-border accessibility of digital service, see https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/sites/isa/files/docs/publications/towards_a_public_multilingual_knowledge_management_infrastructure.pdf).

It also addressed four main themes: multilingual needs of public services in Europe, effective high-quality translation - new technologies for translators, approaches for sustainable data sharing, ensuring sustainable data supply across Europe.

We point out some of the ideas that could be put into practice in our country, too:

- ✓ promoting the use of high-quality administrative language, starting with the drafting of legislative proposals;
- ✓ drawing up guidelines on language and translation in the public administration;
- ✓ including clear technical specifications in the contracts for translation services and requiring translation service providers to deliver translations together with the translation memory;
- ✓ terminology network at the level of public administration.

In the second half of 2018, another ELRC workshop will be organised in Romania, which is part of the new series of ELRC workshops planned to be organised in 30 countries, in order to strengthen the network of public institutions which support on long-term the development of the CEF.AT platform.

Until then, we recommend that public institutions test *eTranslation* and contribute to its upgrading.

Laura Mihăilescu
Translation Coordination Unit
ELRC - Public Services National Anchor Point

Could independence movements threaten the EU?

The Catalonia case

On 13 October 2017, the European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, said in a speech delivered at the Luxembourg University that he did “*not want Catalonia to become independent, because that would encourage other regions to do the same, making the European Union ungovernable*”. “*I wouldn't like a European Union in 15 years that consists of some 98 states*” because “*It's already relatively difficult with 28 and with 27 not easier, but with 98 it would simply be impossible*”.

An independent Catalonia will open Pandora's Box within the European Union and new secessions may appear involving Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, etc., including confrontations between some Member States. Early November, French President Emmanuel Macron declared that Puigdemont's activities awakened the desire for independence of Corsica, Brittany and the Catalan region in the south of France. Macron is greatly concerned about the rise of the Corsican independence movement, which has made Catalonia a reference point

less than two months before the elections in Corsica. Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel also faces the challenge of the Flemish independence movement, with whom he governs in a situation of balance. On 9 November, President Juncker has declared in a ceremony at the University of Salamanca that “Nationalisms are a poison that prevents Europe from working together”. The Catalan newspaper *La Vanguardia* said “the Catalan case also affects the consultative -and legal- referendums in the Veneto and Lombardy on an extension of the autonomy of these two northern regions”. Bavaria in Germany was a headache for the Berlin government and some minorities in other Member States could provoke confrontations within the EU.

Catalonia as an independent country will not be able to remain a Member State of the EU and should apply for membership that requires the unanimity of the MS. The choice of being only part of the Single Market will not be possible since Spain will refuse it. Catalonia has already got many of the responsibilities of a state, with a regional parliament, a regional government. The Generalitat has its own regional police, and handles several radio and TV stations broadcasting in Catalan language. The Government of Spain has provided Catalonia with the capacity to rule most important topics: education, health, some tax collection, etc. Spain is in fact a federal monarchy since 1978.

On 1 October 2017, an illegal referendum was organized. The National Police suffered the harassment of the provocateurs, but they also acted disproportionately against civilians. It was the Spanish Maidan. After the declaration of the Republic of Catalonia on 27 October in a Parliament where the opposition was not present, the Catalanian President fled to Brussels. The Spanish central Government has applied the Article 155 of the Spanish Constitution and the Autonomy remains under control of the Government of Madrid since then. The central Government of Spain has received the support of all Member States of the EU and other countries to assure that an independent Catalonia will not be recognized by their governments. New elections will be held in Catalonia on 21 December 2017.

The House of Bourbons ruled Spain from 1700 onwards and Catalonia did business in the Spanish Empire with high protectionism to prevent imports from more competitive countries like England, France or Germany. Cuba, Puerto

Rico and the Philippines became an exclusive market for exports from Catalonia and protectionist tariffs lasted from 1922 until 1960. Under Franco’s dictatorship, Catalonia received a huge amount of subsidies and privileges to locate new industries. With democracy (1975), the industries in Catalonia received important investments to make the Spanish industries in Catalonia more competitive, which was a prerequisite for Spain to join the EEC.

Catalonia has a huge public debt and that is its main concern. Only the Spanish Government keeps € 52 billion of the Catalanian debt because the Generalitat is not able to borrow funds on the international markets. After 1 October, the two main Catalanian banks left Catalonia and set up their new head offices in other regions of Spain. As far as exports are concerned, Catalonia exports mainly to other regions of Spain, and more than two thousand companies have already left the region.

If Catalonia succeeds to become independent, it is very difficult to reckon the impact on the rest of Spain. According to figures from the Ministry of Economy, for at least 3 years after the split Spain will not be able to keep the GDP growth above 2.6 % as scheduled. Negative economic consequences of the secession for Catalonia will be: the market size is very small, Catalonia ought to face EU External Common Tariff when trading with the EU, industrial companies will move due to mentioned conditions. This situation is already affecting the internal social structure of Catalonia by breaking its cohesion as well as increasing the unemployment rate.

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Carlos Puente Martin
Madrid, 13 November 2017



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Romanian Journal of European Affairs – Winter Issue 2017



In the December issue of the Romanian Journal of European Affairs, the contributors bring to our attention several topics such as: Romania's Euro Area accession; venture capital and leveraged buyout in Eastern Europe; patterns of (dis)continuity in David Cameron's European policy; the clash of discourses on the EU - Russia relations; different facets of Euroscepticism in Estonia; and the export performance of the Baltic States.

The *guest article* on Romania's future Euro Area accession and its terms comes from Professor **Daniel Dăianu**, Member of the Romanian Academy and Member of the Board of the National Bank of Romania, together with **Ella Kállai**, Chief Economist for Alpha Bank Romania, **Gabriela Mihailovici**, Advisor at the National Bank of Romania and **Aura Socol**, Professor of economics at Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies. In their analysis, the authors argue that a mere fulfilment of nominal criteria is far from being sufficient for a country to benefit from Euro Area accession. Sustainable real convergence is a key condition for the economies aspiring to share the same currency and withstand adverse shocks. The large development gap between Romania and the Euro Area is the major hurdle on the way to euro adoption. So, the true stake of euro adoption in Romania should be neither "if" nor "when", but "under what terms" and "how it will be done". The essential prerequisite for real convergence is raising competitiveness. The analysis shows common problems regarding competitiveness in new member states in terms of infrastructure, institutional development, innovation; it points out the scale of risks attached to a premature euro area accession. As the authors argue, one can imagine Romania's accession after having achieved a minimum of 75% of euro area GDP/capita average and the fulfilment of a series of structural conditions against the backdrop of euro area reforms. What Romania needs is *sound* economic growth.

In his article, **Mihai Precup**, Advisor at the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg and PhD student at

University of Paris 1: Panthéon-Sorbonne in France, compares the determinants of leveraged buyout activity, respectively venture capital activity in Eastern European countries. The article also presents the main highlights in terms of evolution of leveraged buyout investments and venture capital investments during the recent crisis in the European emerging countries. The paper shows that the LBO and the venture capital are differently affected by macroeconomic conditions and the author points out several strategic directions meant to support the development of the two in Eastern Europe.

Monika Brusenbauch Meislová, PhD and lecturer based at the Department of Politics and European Studies at Palacký University Olomouc in the Czech Republic, is addressing the topic of David Cameron's policy on the way to Brexit - one of the most difficult challenges that the European Union has ever faced. The article aims to deepen the reader's understanding of his EU policy and provide key insights into the logic of his European dilemmas. It therefore explores how Cameron's EU policy evolved under his Conservative Party leadership and investigates patterns of continuity and discontinuity in his EU discourse. A comparison of the three stages of Cameron's EU policy corresponding with his three cabinets is made in order to show that his EU strategies and tactics were marked by substantial discontinuity.

Valentin Naumescu, PhD, Associate Professor at the Faculty of European Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, analyses the clashing discourses about EU's relations with Russia, in light of the discourse theory. The dynamics of divergent positioning regarding Russia after 2016 led to the question of possible new fault lines in the European Union. Inconsistencies on this topic can be seen between West and East, between post-communist countries on the Eastern Flank with Poland, Romania and the Baltic States, on one side, and Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic on the other side, and between Western chancelleries with rather different views such as Berlin, London or Rome. The aim of this article is to explore the increasing differences and clarify whether conflicting approaches regarding relations with Russia could create real and deep cleavages between EU Member States.

Viljar Veebel, Associate Professor at Baltic Defence College, Department of Strategic Studies, Tartu, Estonia, tackles the multiple facets of the Euroscepticism in Estonia. Although public support for EU membership is strong in Estonia, some Eurosceptic views are also expressed. The author explains that most of the agents and groups with Eurosceptic views could be classified as soft Eurosceptics, including some politicians and public figures. However, from time to time, Euro-populist ideas combined with hard Euroscepticism have emerged too,

mostly among the politicians, but their overall influence in society is rather modest today. Nevertheless, as regards the economic perspective, the Eurosceptic views and arguments in Estonia are often based on pure economic rationality, which could in principle refer to the origins of “Euro-pragmatism” in Estonia. Thus, the author shows that a “positive program” is needed where the focus is not on the statements like “we do not need Eurosceptics”, but on the question of how Eurosceptics could contribute to a more sustainable European Union.

In the paper proposed to RJEa, **Beáta Udvari**, assistant professor at the University of Szeged, Hungary, makes an analysis on the export performance of the Baltic States towards EU countries, but also to Asian developing countries. The trade performance of EU members is also influenced by several EU policies directly or indirectly. Regarding the European development policy, the *Aid for Trade (AfT) initiative* has a crucial role in helping developing countries to participate in international trade more effectively. The paper aims to respond to the question of how AfT influences the trade performance of the Baltic states. The results of the empirical research show that Aid for Trade provided by the EU to developing countries had no significant impact on the exports of the Baltic countries.

Full articles will be available at <http://rjea.ier.ro>.

Our readers are also invited to access RJEa’s Facebook page, at: <https://www.facebook.com/romanian.journal.of.european.affairs/>.

Editors’ note: Starting June 2017, Romanian Journal of European Affairs has been selected for coverage in **Clarivate Analytics** (former Thomson Reuters) products and service. Consequently, the journal is now indexed and abstracted in **Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)**.

Oana Mocanu
Studies and Analyses Unit

BOOK REVIEW:

Integritatea în spațiul public și privat. Prevenție și necesitate în asigurarea încrederii în raporturile sociale (Integrity in public and private space. Prevention and necessity for ensuring trust in social relationships) Coordinator: Rodica Aida Popa

The C. H. Beck Publishing House launched the book “*Integrity in public and private space. Prevention and necessity for ensuring trust in social relationships*”. The topic is of great interest to the Romanian society, integrity being the concept against which the activity of the representatives of both public and private space is measured. Integrity is the one that inspires trust among citizens and among society as a whole in relation to the system in which they carry out their activities.

The coordinator of the paper is Ms Rodica Aida Popa, judge at the High Court of Cassation and Justice (HCCJ), but also the Romanian representative to the Consultative Council of European Judges within the Council of Europe.

The first part contains articles written by experts (judges, lawyers, compliance experts, etc.) on related issues: integrity in public offices (Bogdan Dima); deontological aspects in the present judicial system (Rodica Aida Popa); ethics institutionalization in magistracy (Cristian Ducu); arbitrators’ integrity - Court of International Commercial Arbitration (Stefan Deaconu); professional ethics in the banking sector (Ianfred Silberstein); integrity and malfeasance in service (Mihai-



Adrian Hotca); individualization of punishment in offences such as conflict of interest and office abuse (Rodica Aida Popa); compliance program for private companies (Maria Maxim); compliance policies as part of prevention measures (George-Mihai Popa); training and communication in the organization to prevent risks of non-compliance (Oana-Raluca Banateanu); technical and legal aspects of whistleblowing (Mihai Acscinte).

The second part contains landmark case-law: three decisions whereby the HCCJ held that the National Integrity Agency had no procedural standing to challenge the prosecutor's decisions (No. 13/2011) and that a judicial expert (No. 20/2014) and a doctor employed under an open-ended employment contract in a public hospital (No 26/2014) are considered civil servants under Article 175 of the Criminal Code. Cited as well are two decisions of the Constitutional Court of Romania on a conflict of interest in the private sector (No. 603/2015) and abuse of office (No. 405/2016).

The translation of the publication into three languages (English, French and German) was considered necessary to enable the knowledge and understanding of the Romanian legal system by foreign experts. We feel honoured that the Translation Coordination Unit at EIR translated parts of the English and French versions.

The book is available at C. H. Beck in both editions (Romanian and trilingual): http://www.beckshop.ro/coordonator_rodica_aida_popa-a3463-p0.html

Ionela Haralambie
Translation Coordination Unit

Book Review:

Uniunea Europeană – un trend în derivă? O analiză a discursului mediatic și a perspectivei tinerilor

(The European Union – a drifting trend? An analysis of media discourse and youth perspectives)

Author: Oana Ștefăniță



Challenged by what seems to be an endless crisis, the European Union is facing multiple internal and external problems that, in the absence of effective measures, call into question the very future of the European project itself. We are currently witnessing the rebirth of populist, nationalist and even extremist movements in several European countries, with significant implications for EU decision-making, the relations between member states and the public perceptions. In this context marked by constant transformations, the study of public opinion towards the European Union becomes a relevant and pragmatic endeavour, as the public has often proven that it is acting based on its feelings of support or opposition to the community block (the Brexit vote being only the most recent example in this regard).

Oana Ștefăniță's book - *The European Union, a drifting trend? An analysis of media discourse and youth perspectives* (published this year by comunicare.ro Publishing House) proposes such an approach, investigating the interest of young European citizens for European issues, the place of the Union on their interpersonal conversations' agenda, the way they understand and experience European identity, but also their perceptions about the future of the EU.

Based on solid theoretical sources and rigorous empirical research, the author analyses how the information regarding European topics is reported by the national media system and how these data overlap with citizens' representations.

The volume comprises four main sections, the first three being dedicated to the theoretical aspects while the latter puts forward the results of an empirical study. The analytical framework of the paper is defined by fundamental concepts and theories such as agenda setting, public sphere, Europeanization and European identity. The goal of the theoretical chapters is not to favour a particular approach, but to present a variety of perspectives that explain the role of the media activity in the Europeanization of the national public sphere, in constructing the image of the European Union and in forging a sense of belonging to the European community. The author's conclusion is clear: the Union cannot remain an elites' project anymore, especially in the context of the recent events that have the most visible effects on ordinary citizens' lives. In other words, the EU cannot evolve or develop without becoming a citizens' project, without raising the interest and involvement of ordinary people. Public communication is therefore essential for the legitimizing and the strengthening of the Union, for promoting its policies in order to obtain popular support. And it is mainly the media outlets that have a central role in this process by their ability to inform citizens, to construct an image of the Union, to craft attitudes towards it and create the prerequisites for the development of a European identity.

The empirical section, based on both quantitative and qualitative research methods, emphasizes the way in which young educated people in Romania perceive the EU and its future, how they understand and define their Europeanness, and also the contexts and factors that facilitate their affiliation to a broader European identity. At the same time, the research investigates young people's interest in European themes, their involvement in European debates, and the extent to which the topics, approaches, frames and evaluations that are promoted by the media in relation to the EU are to be found on people's interpersonal conversation agendas.

Findings show that young Romanians' attitudes towards the European Union remain relatively optimistic and seem to be equally fuelled by their dissatisfaction with national politics and the powerful attraction towards the West. This euro-enthusiasm is also nurtured by people's desire to overcome existing gaps between them and the citizens of other member states in terms of rights, benefits and opportunities. Put differently, young Romanian people support the evolution and development of the Union, because they want to feel European and to be perceived as such. Hence, the idea of Europeanness is, in most cases, equalled to an ideal of civilization and development, to the lack of discrimination and to the access to a higher standard of living.

Instead of final remarks, we invite the readers to reflect upon one fundamental question that this book inevitably raises: *To what extent will the young Romanians remain optimistic about the future of the Union, often labelled as "the ideal of civilization and development"?* An assumption that we dare to advance is that in the current unstable context, Romania can no longer be automatically categorized as a Europhile country, not even by reference to the younger generations. Although the traditional tools of public opinion investigation (especially Eurobarometer surveys) still place Romanians in the euro-enthusiasts' category, at a deeper level of analysis, these optimistic attitudes seem to be challenged and reconfigured by recent events.

Book review by **Georgiana Udrea**

Oana Ștefăniță is Assistant Lecturer at the College of Communication and Public Relations, SNSPA. She holds a PhD in Communication Sciences. Her research interests focus on mass communication and the study of media effects, the Europeanization process, but also education and psychology-related aspects.

Georgiana Udrea is Assistant Lecturer at the College of Communication and Public Relations, SNSPA, and member of the Center for EU Communication Studies within the same institution.

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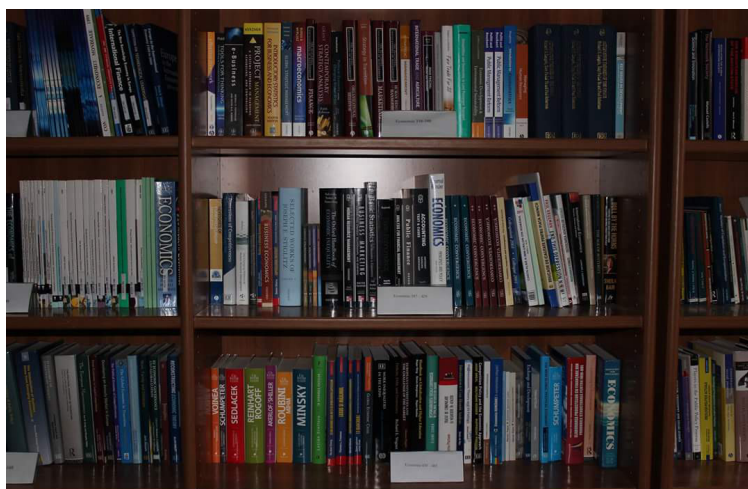
Once you join our small European world, you will discover that it is easy to find publications on matters of interest to you. The library covers five separate fields of interest: 1) Economic and Monetary Union, Internal Market, General Policies, Institutional Affairs, Law, 2) Political Sciences, 3) International Relations, 4) Economics and 5) Dictionaries.

Here are just a few examples from the **Economic and Monetary Union** field, aimed at developing possible scenarios for the European currency survival and at revealing the perils the Eurozone faces: *"EMU and Economic Policy in Europe - The Challenge of the Early Years"*, published by Marco Buti and André Sapir, *"The Euro: The First Decade"* authored by Marco Buti, Servaas Deroose, Vítor Gaspar and João Nogueira Martins, and *"Financial and Monetary Integration in the New Europe - Convergence between the EU and Central and Eastern Europe"* by David G. Dickinson.

The **Institutional Affairs** field includes several copies of *"Policy-Making in the European Union"*, 7th edition, coordinated by Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair R. Young, a book of reference for every expert or expert-to-be in the European affairs field, and also *"European Union Politics 5th edition"*, published by Michelle Cini and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragnán.

The **General Policies** section welcomes readers with *"The Politics of European Integration"* written by Andrew Glencross, *"United or Against by Euroscepticism?"*, edited by Alina Bârgăoanu, Loredana Radu and Diego Varela and with *"The New Europe - European Model and Identity"*, written by Iordan Gheorghe Bărbulescu.

The **Economics** field gathers a considerable number of books and dictionaries, many written in English: *"Europe in Crisis - Problems, Challenges and Alternative Perspectives"*, edited by Aristidis Bitzenis and Nikolaos Karagiannis, *"The Price of Inequality - How Today's divided Society Endangers our Future"*, written by Joseph E. Stiglitz and *"Provocările viitorului - Principalele tendințe care vor reconfigura lumea în următorii 5, 10, 20 de ani"* (The challenges of the future - main trends that will configure the world in the next 5, 10, 20 years) authored by James Canton.



International Relations and Political Sciences sections include numerous reference titles, among which one can mention *"În umbra Europei - Două războaie reci și trei decenii de călătorie prin România și dincolo de ea"* (In Europe's shadow - two cold wars and three decades of travelling in Romania and beyond), written by Robert D. Kaplan, a travel book that the author wrote trying to understand the destiny of a country and to fulfil his own vocation, *"The Future of #Diplomacy"* by Philip Seib, *"Cyber War - The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It"* authored by Richard A. Clarke and Robert K.

Knake, “*Divided Nations - Why global governance is failing, and what we can do about it*”, written by Ian Goldin and “*Bruxelles european. Context românesc*” (*European Brussels. Romanian context*), authored by Dan Luca.

Alongside reference books, international periodicals such as *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs* or *The Economist* can also be found on the bookshelves of the Documentation Centre.

Last, but not least, we also mention the European Institute of Romania’s publications. The **Strategy and Policy Studies (SPOS)** series include studies centred upon fundamenting the Romanian strategies and policies, post EU accession. The **Romanian Journal of European Affairs (RJEA)**, a scientific publication focused on topics such as: European institutions, mechanisms and policies, migration, security, EU as a global actor, Romania’s role in an enlarged European Union, enjoys a widespread national and international audience. The journal is indexed in international scientific databases, such as EBSCO, SCOPUS, ProQuest and recently (June 2017) it was indexed in Emerging Sources Citation Index - ESCI (within Clarivate Analytics



- former Thomson Reuters). In addition, in order to celebrate 10 years since Romania joined the EU, the European Institute of Romania has elaborated a synthesis of the main benefits of Romania’s integration in the EU. “**Romania - 10 years in the European Union**” Report presents a short history of Romania’s road to accession, the current regional context and the evolution of Romanian citizens’ perception as part of the EU, the main sectorial benefits, along with a few general considerations on the future of the European construction.

Hoping that you will find all the above-presented of interest, the Documentation Centre is eagerly waiting for your visit. And don’t forget: „Books allow us to get into their souls and open us a way towards our inner secrets.” (William Hazlitt)

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