

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF POLITICAL STUDIES AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
The Department of International Relations and European Integration

Proceedings

Interconnectivity and EU Foreign Policy Making

Coord:
Ioana Dodi

9-10 May 2017
Bucharest, Romania

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This collective volume is published with the support of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence “Structures of Interconnectivity in the EU’s Neighbourhood”, no. 566765-EPP-1-2015-1-RO-EPPJMO-CoE

The project is implemented by the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, the Department of International Relations and European Integration with the financial support of the **European Commission**.

The articles from this volume have been presented by participants at the International Conference “*Interconnectivity and EU Foreign Policy Making*” organized within the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence “Structures of Interconnectivity in the EU’s Neighbourhood”, which took place on 9-10 May 2017, Bucharest, Romania.

The conference aimed to enhance the knowledge level about specific issues regarding the EU foreign policy in the context of the interconnectedness phenomenon and to facilitate the collaboration between academia, public institutions, professional groups and civil society representatives.

The general areas covered by the three panels that gave PhD students and post-doctoral researchers the opportunity to present and discuss about their academic works were the following:

- European Neighbourhood Policy
- Union for the Mediterranean
- Eastern Partnership – lessons learned
- Evaluation of CFSP and its instruments
- Eastern European/ Southern European dynamics
- The EU as a global actor.

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Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence “Structures of Interconnectivity in the EU’s Neighbourhood”, no. 566765-EPP-1-2015-1-RO- EPPJMO-CoE

Between September 2015 and August 2018, the Department of International Relations and European Integration coordinates the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence "Structures of the EU's Neighbourhood Interconnectivity" (Project no. 566 765 EPP-1-2015-1-RO-EPPJMO-CoE), co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus Plus Program, Jean Monnet Action. The project is coordinated by Professor Iordan Gheorghe Bărbulescu, PhD, Dean of the Department of International Relations and European Integration and President of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration’s Senate.

Throughout this project, the Department will set up a Centre of Excellence that aims to develop teaching and research activities that address the issue of the EU’s new approaches towards the neighbourhood policy, focusing on the impact of the institutional reform on the economic, social and political development and integration of partner countries. These activities are designed in order to increase and deepen the awareness level regarding the importance of the ENP in the EU's foreign policy and also about the EU's role as a global economic and political actor.

The project covers the following target groups: students and young researchers, the business community, representatives of central government and NGOs working in the field of European studies.

Specific Objectives

1. To foster research on the development of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the impact of the present reform on the role of EU in a more and more globalized world
2. To enhance knowledge among young researchers specialized in complementary study fields
3. To develop of the study field
4. To share knowledge regarding the ENP and its current reform among business community, representatives of public administration and civil society

EUROPEANISATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS: THE CASES OF MINORITY RIGHTS POLICIES IN EASTERN EUROPE IN THE CONTEXT OF ENLARGEMENT POLICY

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Abstract:

The European Union faces multiple crises both internally and externally. The instruments through which it chooses to respond to these challenges shape the view that the partner countries have about its normative power. Even if the enlargement policy is currently a secondary priority, the interest for maintaining a stable and secure neighbourhood emphasizes the need for a coherent policy in this field and subsequently the need for a common approach of the national foreign policies and the European perspective. In this context, the Europeanisation represents a significant opportunity for development and rapprochement for the partner countries, both through EU's instruments and national ones, but one inquires which the means of influence are. In order to assess this, the paper explores the concept of Europeanisation and its impact on the minority rights policies in Eastern Europe, in particular in Romania. The interconnectedness between the bilateral dialogue and the European Union influence in Western Balkans is evaluated by discussing the impact of bilateral lobbying in the relation between Romania and Serbia regarding the field of the Europeanisation of minority rights.

Keywords

Bilateral relations, European Union, Europeanisation, minority rights, Romania, Serbia

EUROPEAN UNION AS GLOBAL ACTOR AND THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH PEOPLE`S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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Abstract

China's relation to the European Union is one of the most important, and this relation has been built to evolve both ways, bring forward mutual benefits to the two great global powers, under a dynamic world economy, in the search for new solutions and resources against a background of continuous geopolitical and diplomatic transformations. Democracy, human rights and promotion of common values remain fundamental principles of the European Union's policy, holding a central importance to bilateral relations. The EU should encourage the development of a full, healthy and independent civil society in China and support the efforts to strengthen the rule of law, a key basis for all the other reforms. The idea in writing this paper was to highlight the importance of trade, first worldwide and second, especially, between the two economic blocks and the manner in which it grew as of 1980, reaching the peak in the begging of the 21st century, more specifically during the period 2004/2014, when the European Union and the People's Republic of China are "face to face".

Keywords

China, economic, European Union, geopolitical, relation, trade

ENSURING CONTINUITY OF THE EU COUNCIL'S AGENDA IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION. THE 2016-2017 TRIO PRESIDENCY OF THE NETHERLANDS, SLOVAKIA AND MALTA

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Abstract

The paper will address the highly debated issue of continuity in the legislative decision-making of the Council of the European Union in the context of the 18 month Presidency of the Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta at the height of the migration crisis. The analysis is aimed at establishing whether the 18 month Programme of the trio can be, as formalized by the Treaty of Lisbon, a tool for ensuring the continuity of the Council's agenda between Presidencies or if it is, as commonly claimed by the scholarly literature, merely a bureaucratic document. For this purpose, the analysis departs from the trio Programme and traces the continuity of the objectives set in the field of migration throughout the individual six month programmes of the three member states as well as in the complementary activity during their respective Presidency term in relation to particular migration issues such as the reform of the Dublin system, the management of the refugee flows or the efficient implementation of the principle of solidarity.

Keywords

Continuity, trio programme, EU Council Presidency, migration

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – ON THE BRINK OF ANOTHER UKRAINIAN SCENARIO?

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Abstract

The wise student of the ‘Eastern Partnership (EaP) school’, Republic of Moldova has gained its reputation of performer in the EU approximation, both in the implementation of the EU recommendations, and as a supporter of the European norms and development pattern. Recent political evolutions in the country have put the European path of Moldova under question. After a long struggle in the adoption of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, with its economic and legislative ups and downs, there are now political opinions that bring into discussion the importance of this agreement, going further to the possibility of denouncing it. This political decision, if made, would reshape the road of economic reform that Moldova has undertaken for the past decade. But, even more alarming, it might direct the country towards uncertainty and riots, a very similar scenario to the one of its neighbour and EaP colleague, Ukraine. We tackle Moldova’s prospects of embezzling its EU engagement and we analyse future possible evolutions of Moldova under the bigger frame of the Eastern Partnership, itself a much tormented, constantly reforming and rather confuse geographical and political area. The Ukrainian crisis arose from a lack of political choice of the people. Thus, our purpose is to identify similarities and differences and determine whether Moldova is about to head to a Ukrainian-like conflict or not.

Keywords

Crisis, Eastern Partnership, neighbourhood, political options, reform

IS EUROPEAN UNION A FORTRESS FOR REFUGEES FROM MENA REGION?

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Abstract

In the current article I wished to analyse the response of the European Union regarding the refugee crisis, through a critical examination of its management. In conducting this research, I begin by presenting the theoretical support-*the concept of securitization* in the terms identified by Copenhagen School of International Relations in order to fundament the European decision to fortify external borders, when in 2015, the Member States faced a massive flow of asylum seekers from MENA region. In other words, I intend to offer a better understanding of the reasons why the European states returned to the national interest logic and close their borders, without taking into account the previous relations established through the European Neighbourhood Policy and the assumed International commitments. In addition, I would like to emphasize that the adoption of a fortification policy at EU level would prove counterproductive to the European unity and its multiculturalism.

Key concepts

Fortress, migration, securitization, societal security