

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

## **Proceedings**

# **Towards a New European Neighbourhood Policy**

Coord:  
Mihaela Aioanei  
Ioana Antoaneta Dodi

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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 the EU in a more and more globalized world
2. To enhance knowledge among young researchers specialized in complementary study fields
3. To develop the study field of the ENP
4. To share knowledge regarding the ENP and its current reform among members of the academia, business community, representatives of public administration and civil society

# CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS – WITNESSES IN THE MIGRATION CRISIS

**Carmen Marina Gheorghiu**

National School of Political Studies and Public Administration

Bucharest, Romania

*gheorghiumarina@yahoo.com*

## **ABSTRACT**

The refugee crisis in Europe is considered to be a political and social phenomenon triggered by alleged reasons, such as, according to some opinions: conflicts in northern Africa and the Middle East, or the level of poverty and the violation of "human rights". In recent years, more than ever, Romania faces an exodus of refugees, immigrants coming mainly from Syria or Iraq, who arrive in Romania by sea or land, hidden in containers, etc. Whole families, parents and children, have been repeatedly found (by frontier workers) scared, thirsty, hungry, without identity papers, and often tricked by the guides they have paid. Fleeing from their native countries, either as a result of political persecution or armed conflict in the territory, they consider and choose Romania as an alternative to the entry route in Hungary, a gateway to other European countries. The large number of children accompanying immigrant groups allows us to formulate an idea of parents' hopes and desires to "save" the new generation and give it the opportunity to live away from the horrors of armed conflicts, wars, etc. The short-term solution is not necessarily the "solidarity effusions" on the part of the indigenous population, nor the "hysterical rejection" of the flow of immigrants, but the administratively and legally "cold" management, of an "migration" under control. Between the alternatives chosen by their parents and the utopia of a life described by those around them, the children of this segment of the population labelled either as "tolerated," "immigrant," or "refugee", by people from countries where they go to, or where the families hope to settle down, they are exposed to an early growing up phenomenon on "adaptation" and "struggle for survival". This paper work is intended to be an analysis of the perception of migrant children arriving on the territory of our country about the whole situation they are crossing with the family, the methods of research being focused on the analysis of the existing documents promoted (also) by the media and the official reports on the phenomenon triggered by the recent wave of migration, as well as the direct participatory observation.

**KEYWORDS:** *immigrant children, family unit, rights, transition, social contrast*

# **THE EUROPEAN UNION'S EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: A MULTI-SPEED REGIONAL APPROACH**

**Denisa Vlăsceanu**

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

Bucharest, Romania

*denisavlasceanu15@gmail.com*

## **ABSTRACT**

Because of the multiple challenges and threats that the EU is facing, the foreign security policy of this actor has changed over time, growing from a strategy of making the EU a significant global player to a multi-faceted policy of building resilience and providing a common ground for the engagement of international powers (such as Russia). In this context, the aim of this chapter is to assess the role of the EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP) as an instrument of Normative Power, and to examine if the purpose of the EU was to enhance a regional security complex in the Eastern region, notably an extended security community of the six EaP countries. Through a qualitative analysis, this chapter will reveal thus, a better understanding of the emergence and development of the Eastern Partnership.

**KEYWORDS:** EaP, Normative Power of Europe, security community, Regional Security Complex theory, EaP countries

# **EU'S ENERGY IN THE BORDERLANDS – VEINS FOR THE ENERGY UNION?**

**Antonia Colibaşanu**

Geopolitical Futures, Austin, Texas U.S.A.

Active Compete +, Bucharest, Romania

Bucharest, Romania

*antonia@colibasanu.ro*

## **ABSTRACT**

This is an extended essay on the power of the European Union. It discusses the new neighborhood policy and the energy policy, the energy union in relation to the EU power upon the member states and influence towards its neighborhood. The paper discusses the case of South-Eastern neighborhood, considering the geopolitics currently at play. It contextualizes the EU policies through an analytical method assessing the way actors influence one another on the global level and discusses potential scenarios for the states on the EU borderlines, considering their energy needs and geopolitical imperatives.

**KEYWORDS:** European neighborhood policy, energy union, geopolitics



# **CORRUPTION RISKS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN THE EU AND EU PERIPHERY COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup>**

**Tromme Mat**

Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law,  
London, UK  
*m.tromme@binghamcentre.biicl.org*

**Volintiru Clara**

The Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE)  
Bucharest, Romania  
*clara.volintiru@rei.ase.ro*

## **ABSTRACT**

Most governance and decentralization reforms tend to prioritise transfers of powers from the central to local governments (LGs). This has resulted in greater decision-making, administrative functions and oversight, including concerning the delivery of public services, taxation or other socio-economic policies. There is growing interest and evidence on whether and how corruption impacts decentralisation (as opposed to centralised systems). Our findings suggest that administrative capacity of local governments appears to be higher in EU member states than non-EU member states. Nepotism and public procurement issues are seen as the greatest corruption risks across regions, and favouritism in public procurement appears to be the largest issue in the Western Balkans and EaP. Political parties stand out as having the weakest internal governance across all three regions. Conversely, the courts and the police are perceived to be the most effective institutions at local level.

**KEYWORDS:** Corruption, Eastern Partnership, decentralisation, institutional capacity, Western Balkans

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<sup>1</sup> This paper was part of the Youth ResearchEdge competition and was previously published in the Winners' section of the 2018 OECD Global Anti-corruption & Integrity Forum.

# **SWEDEN – AN ACTIVE ACTOR IN THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY**

**Luminița Bogdan**

Phd student at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

Bucharest, Romania

*luminitabogdan@yahoo.co.uk*

## **ABSTRACT**

This article examines the role of Sweden in the formation process of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and also aims at identifying the factors which shaped the relations of Stockholm Government with the countries included in the ENP, both from the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood. Thus, Sweden played an important role in the initial impetus for the ENP, and, with United Kingdom, advocated strengthening relations with the countries of the European Union's Neighbourhood in the context of the 2004 enlargement. Moreover, together with Poland, Sweden is the initiator and the promoter of the Eastern Partnership (EaP), the platform for the European Union (EU) cooperation with the countries of Eastern Europe (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine). From this perspective, Sweden was one of most vocal critics of Russia's aggressive policy towards Eastern European countries, mostly after the Ukrainian crisis and the Georgian war.

**KEYWORDS:** Sweden, European Union, European Neighbourhood Policy, Ukrainian crisis, Russia