

# CITIZENS' REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FUTURE CHALLENGES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

*Alina – Carmen BRIHAN*

**Abstract:** *The present paper focuses on an important aspect of the European Union's becoming in this century, that of the multi – level governance, as it is outlined by the Treaty of Lisbon. The hypothesis used in approaching the subject is that: while the European governance, defined as a multi – level governance because of the many actors involved in the European decision – making process, is facing challenges with regard to its democratic legitimacy, the national government is facing the challenges brought by Europeanization to the Member States – from the point of view of the support, participation in and influencing of the European decision – making process. Therefore, the paper focuses on three aspects: the theoretical framework of citizens' representation and participation in the context of the EU's multi - level governance; the outlining of the mechanisms and challenges of the interaction between the political representatives and the governed, from a theoretical point of view and as it is reflected in the Eurobarometers; and last, but not least, the analysis of the above mentioned relation as applied to first and second years Political Science students from the University of Oradea, as an early barometer of the challenges that their perspectives on this relation generate not only for the academic institutions but also for the labour market – and, particularly, the political representatives, as potential employers, because of the role that they will play in the development of our democratic societies and multi – level Europe, as Political Science graduates*

**Keywords:** *European Union, multi - level governance, citizenship, participation, representation, democratic deficit, Political Science students*

# THE IMPACT OF STRUCTURAL FUNDS ON ROMANIAN SOCIETY - BUILDING GOVERNANCE

*Răzvan COTOVELEA*

**Abstract:** *In this paper I analyze the implications of the European Regional Development Policy/Cohesion Policy on the institutional, behavioral and economic transformations associated to such policy in Romania.*

*I consider that this paper clarifies to a certain extent this dynamic process. It is an attempt to include in the explanation the increase of the number of stakeholders involved in governance, of political, socio-economical and institutional stakeholders who increasingly complicate the coherence of our political system. This study provides a starting point for the evaluation and understanding of the political, administrative and economical Romanian system, for analyzing and comparing the general trend of reconfiguration, of redefining positions within State, as well for understanding the link between governance, economic performance and structural funds. The empiric evidence demonstrated that certain political systems can better solve public problems, while others do not manage to do so at all. My study is trying to bring a higher degree of visibility of the current transformations. The purpose of the paper is to examine the manner in which a new model of governance is born, and provide a clearer understanding of the factors which are behind of this process. The logic of this methodology is to extract certain basic elements, which might have a significant influence in the discussed empiric problem (governance building). My intention is to isolate certain features, certain factors that channel the change of the Romanian politico-organizational system and to explain them.*

**Keywords:** *structural funds, Romania, public policy, growth, governance*

# HEALTH CARE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

*Cristinela-Ionela VELICU*

**Abstract:** *The case of undertaking health policy analysis has been made by a number of academics and practitioners, however there has been given less attention to how the health care decisions are made, what theories and methods best inform policy making processes. This paper aim to conceptualize a theoretical framework in order to describe decision-making models in six Central and Eastern European countries: Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.*

**Keywords:** *policy analysis, agenda-setting, CEE countries, incrementalism, institutions.*

# MODELS AND INSTRUMENTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA. THE LEADER APPROACH - LOCAL ACTION GROUPS IN NORTH WEST DEVELOPMENT REGION

*István POLGÁR*

**Abstract:** *Research undertaken in the present work aims to identify and present in a more unified and synthetic manner the theoretical and conceptual foundations of rural development policies, and to present the development of Romanian rural area in the period 2007-2013 as a result of its accession to the European Union and implementation of the National Rural Development Programme and to analyse the effects and influences that were generated by the implementation of this rural development program in Romania.*

**Keywords:** *policy, rural, regional, development, national*

# WORKFORCE COMPETENCE IMPROVEMENT BY MEANS OF HUNGARY – ROMANIA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

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**Abstract:** *The Cross-Border Cooperation component of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, realized through operational programs that aim the internal borders of the European Union, encourage the entrepreneurship and supports the developing of collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures in health, culture, tourism and education. The strategic objective to approximate the various participants - individuals, businesses and community actors - in order to better exploit the opportunities offered by joint development of the border area, has enabled considerable improvement in the labor market situation. In this context, the cross-border cooperation programs directly contribute to creating a more integrated labor market by promoting cooperation in education, training and lifelong learning. The study aims to highlight the skills acquired by local workforce beneficiary of projects undertaken inside the Hungarian-Romanian Program of Cross-Border Cooperation, which reduced unemployment and more efficient use of local human resources.*

**Keywords:** *workforce competence, cross – border cooperation, human resources*

# THE DEBATE ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM. LEARNING INTERNATIONAL POLITICS ACTIVELY

*Constantin-Vasile ȚOCA  
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**Abstract:** *To complement the academic research on the topic of UN Security Council reform we hosted a debate based on the model UN format with students from the International Relations and European Studies groups at our faculty. The main objective was to create an interaction between practical elements of international relations (concepts like negotiation, international politics, and power politics) and theoretical elements, familiar to international relations students, in a way as to facilitate learning. The secondary objective was to create an effective learning model for students, one that would help perfect their communication and negotiation skills. The results mined from the data that we recorded proved to be quite interesting both from an international relations perspective and a pedagogical perspective. This article is the direct result of the study done on our data, providing concrete application of the model used in the debate.*

**Keywords:** *United Nations, Security Council, reform, debate, active learning, international politics*

# IDIOSYNCRASIES IN THE FOREIGN POLICY DECISION- MAKING (I): COGNITIVE IDIOSYNCRASIES

*Melania-Gabriela CIOT*

**Abstract.** *Foreign policy decisions are influenced by many factors. The role of informational processing, of framing, of idiosyncrasies ask for the use of a psychological approach of foreign policy decion-making process. This study will be the first one from a series of studies, which will present the different types of idiosyncrasies which influence the decision-making process, at individual level. It will emphasizes the different categories of cognitive idiosyncrasies which may influence and the researches and studies that underlined their presence.*

**Keywords:** *idiosyncrasies, foreign policy decision-making, cognitive factors*

# **BORDER REGIONS IN RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY. THE CASE OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION AND THE BLACK SEA REGION**

*Maria GĀVĀNECI*

**Abstract:** *Regional policy became a real test for EU- Russia relationship. The common neighborhood can play an essential role in defining the structure of their relationship and establishing a set of rules for their interaction. Facing new realities, Russia was forced to rethink its approach to borders and regionalism, and to integrate this region building process in the design of its foreign policy. The aim of this article is to analyze Russia's involvement in region building process at the border with EU and the way the considered regions reflect its foreign policy conception. The analyze will start from defining the role regionalism plays in the construction of Russia's foreign policy and its approach to this concept, followed by an examination of its interest in the two regions selected and the role they play in Russia's internal debate over security. I will analyze, then, the construction of Russia's foreign policy and its reflection in the relationship with other players, especially EU, in order to summarize this study in several points that could help EU's policy in the common neighborhood with Russia. Are these regions a reflection of EU-Russia policy? Is Russia an active player or does it only react to the evolutions imposed by other actors? The way Russia takes part in the construction of these two regions differs and I will try to examine the factors that lead to this different approach, paying attention to the role of regional identity, as well as the EU stance in the region. It is interesting to analyze in this context if the Russian approach in these two different regions follows a strict conception of foreign policy or it's an adaptation to the regional actors and evolutions. For this, it is necessary to examine also the internal debate over the foreign policy design and the way these two regions are envisaged in this design.*

**Keywords:** *border regions, Russia's foreign policy, Baltic Sea Region, Black Sea Region*



# CFSP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT: THE EUROPEAN UNION'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD RUSSIA DURING THE CHECHEN WARS

*Ioan HORGA*  
*Ioana NAN*

**Abstract:** *The European Union is a unique organization for the study of politics on both domestic and international level. The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union has been in various cases characterized as inefficient and lacking unity and consensus in addressing crisis situations. This paper makes an analysis of the CFSP during the two Chechen wars. It will first offer an insight into the Russo-Chechen conflict, then a short perspective on EU-Russian Federation relationship after the fall of the Soviet Union and finally analyze the CFSP through the Liberal Intergovernmentalism theory.*

**Keywords:** *The Common Foreign and Security Policy, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Chechnya, Liberal Intergovernmentalism*

# SPATIAL DATA ANALYSIS AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION. THE CASE OF BIHOR – HAJDÚ BIHAR EUROREGION

*Cosmin CHIRIAC*

**Abstract:** *For areas such as the Bihor County from Romania and the Hajdú-Bihar County from Hungary, entities that together give the name and space for the Bihor - Hajdú-Bihar Euroregion, to find a common ground for development it is essential to have the data that can uncover such possibilities. Evidently, this raises a series of issues that need to be tackled before such an analysis is possible.*

*This article focuses on these issues, analyzing them, while trying to find solutions that will allow a thorough understanding of development possibilities for the abovementioned studyarea.*

**Keywords:** *geographical databases, cross-border cooperation, administrative hierarchy, data exchange and analysis*

# DES ENCLAVES IDENTITAIRES AU CŒUR DE LA NATION FRANÇAISE: LES ENJEUX D'UNE POLITIQUE D'INTÉGRATION ASSIMILATIONNISTE

*Alina STOICA  
Cosmin Adrian POP*

**Résumé:** *La façon de se rapporter aux minorités et les tensions qui en découlent justement à cause de cette attitude simplement invalidante, voir dénégatoire vers les autres identités culturelles, met la France dans un conflit perpétuel avec les immigrants. Le projet social français construit, bien évidemment, par rapport aux valeurs républicaines, a entraîné la mise en vigueur des normes tout à fait restrictives et qui ne reposent pas sur l'idée d'inter culturalité, mais sur celle de l'effacement des autres cultures aperçues comme inférieures par rapport à celle française. Le dégagement de la sphère publique de tous les particularismes identitaires s'avère une politique simplement non-viable justement à cause de l'accumulation des immigrants qui ont transformé la France dans un pays multiracial et multiculturel.*

**Mots-clés:** *politique d'immigration, intégration, valeurs républicaines, citoyenneté, racisme, post-colonialisme*

# **SURVIVORS OF HOLOCAUST AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FROM ORADEA**

*Anca OLTEAN*

**Abstract:** *The element of novelty brought by this paper is to valorify a number of 8 questionnaires with Jews that either were deported or their family members were deported, from Oradea. Together with an introduction in the topic of the history of Jews from Romania and Hungary from the years 1945-1953 and an analysis of the existent bibliography in this field of research, these are the contributions brought by this paper. The questionnaires, the original part of this paper, reveal the uncertainty, scarcity of material resources, the illnesses and the political pressure that the Jewish community from Oradea had to bear after their return from Holocaust.*

**Keywords:** *Jews, history, Holocaust, postwar, community, communism*

# DIFFERENTIATED INTEGRATION - FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE. DETERMINERS IN THE INTEGRATION PROCESS OF THE WESTERN BALKANS: ETHNICITY

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MIRCEA BRIE

**Abstract:** *Most studies of differentiated integration are limited to the European Union, to the relations between the existing Member-States, and to the various institutional arrangements. The relationship between the European Union and the Western Balkans offers the support for testing the concept of differentiated integration on the dynamics recorded between the EU and a group of foreign states. Different Balkan states signed different contractual agreements with the European Union, with the expressed wish to consolidate their European perspective. The EU has a large range of initiatives, already implemented or in the process of implementation, for the Western Balkans. One such key initiative is the regional approach, which pushes the Western Balkan states toward forms of regional cooperation that need to be achieved if progress is sought in their contractual relations with the EU. This approach of the EU is salutary in theory, but in practice, the region of the Western Balkans is not uniform, it does not have any constants in the regional characteristics, in terms of identity, culture, and political and economic development. The Western Balkans space is synonymous with the geopolitics of violence, where drawing and redrawing borders and frontiers hide scars rooted in ethnicity, confession, religion and/or nationality, which are often translated into nationalism and desire for independence.*

*Our work will attempt to tap into likely determiners in the integration process of the Western Balkans and to see if it is possible to establish an integrationist model open to dialogue. One of the starting premises is that ethnicity has been a determiner in the integration process (or the disintegration process, for that matter!), both in the case of Yugoslavia, and in the case of post-Yugoslavia evolution, including the process of European integration. Ethnic barriers have been passed by some countries with great difficulty, and the prospect of European integration does not entail a solution to all disagreements. Moreover, some states/nations are at an early stage of identity construction process, often involving claims or amendments to/from other countries.*

**Keywords:** *EU, Western Balkans, (differentiated) integration, ethnicity, cooperation, region, enlargement*

# MINORITIES ISSUE - FROM IGNORANCE TO CONCERN AT THE EASTERN BORDER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: THE ROMA POPULATION

*Claudia Anamaria IOV*  
*Claudiu MARIAN*

**Abstract.** *The minorities issue was always a corner stone for the Central and South-Eastern European countries during their negotiations with the European Union. The Roma issue represents a particular chapter, not only for its large number, but also because of its complexity, the involved actors and the political and social stakes that accompanied it. The present paper intends to illustrate the interdependence relation of two components: identity and security, focusing on the potential interethnic conflict, international legislation, the way in which different aspects of the legislative approach regarding human rights and protection of national and ethnic minorities influenced the relation between state (majority) and minority (Roma population) in several Central and South-Eastern European countries.*

**Keywords:** *ethnic minority, security, social integration, (inter)national legislation, acquis communautaire.*

# THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO MODEL IN THE EXPERIENCE OF ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PRISONS

*Antoanela Paula MUREȘAN*

**Abstract.** *This paper is an analysis of two totalitarian regimes, Romanian and Russian, from the perspective of those who were imprisoned due to their convictions against the communist system. We tried to identify and understand the similarities and the differences between these two regimes, taking into account some patterns (reasons for confessing, arrests, food, physical and psychological pressures, or relationships with guards) that in our opinion offered the image of the real life in Romanian and Russian prisons.*

**Keywords:** *Legionnaire Movement, Iron Guard, physical pressure, psychological pressure, totalitarian regimes*