

## **IV. Events**

# DISSEMINATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT “INITIATIVE AND CONSTRAINT IN THE MAPPING OF EVOLVING EUROPEAN BORDERS”

*Locations: Oradea – Debrecen- Uzhgorod- Chernivtsi - Chisinau – Oradea*  
*Dates: June 3-13<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

The University of Oradea, as a main partner in the Jean Monnet Multilateral Research Group entitled “Initiative and Constraint in the Mapping of Evolving European Borders” organized in June 2013 the dissemination of the results of the project in an itinerant seminar session entitled “*Communicating the EU Policies beyond the borders. Proposals for Constructive Neighbour Relations and the New EU External Communication Strategy*”. The participants were project members from all of the partner institutions that participated in the project. The dissemination was organized in order to deliver a different perspective on borders, for the participants, by crossing 4 different borders (Romania-Hungary, Hungary-Ukraine, Ukraine-Moldova, Moldova-Romania), as well as for the beneficiaries of the project, such as local authorities and universities from the cities in which the seminars were held. The dissemination seminars were held in Oradea (Romania), Debrecen (Hungary), Uzhhorod (Ukraine), Chernivtsi (Ukraine) and Chisinau (Moldova).

The dissemination of the results of the project opened with the kick-on workshop in Oradea on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013, where the project manager, prof. Ioan Horga presented the evolution of the project and some of its results: the number of collected sources so far, the issues of Eurolimes that were released, the project consortium and the researchers involved, as well as the activities of each work packages. The CVCE technical expert presented the preliminary results of the digital database regarding borders in the frame of the new CVCE website. The seminar continued the next day with the dissemination workshop, entitled *The Prioritization of EU Enlargements: A Strategic Choice to Encourage Constructive Neighbour Relations*, chaired by prof. Maria Manuela Tavares Ribeiro, from the University of Coimbra, Portugal and prof. Ariane Landuyt from the University of Siena, Italy. The main topics that were discussed were the enlargement process of the European Union, the EU regional policy, gender equality policies and geopolitical priorities.

The structure of the next seminars would follow the structure of the seminar in Oradea: first, the results of the project are presented, afterwards several papers are presented. The next seminar was held in Debrecen, Hungary, on June, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and it was entitled *Enhancing EU External Relations: The Challenge of Identity Borders in Communication of EU Policies*. The main focus of the seminar was the discussion of the EU’s relations, related either to identity, energy or even economy, in relation to its neighborhood and how can the EU improve its communication within its external relations. For instance, Dr. Polgar’s point of view in this sense was the need to build a



common memory beyond borders in order to help create a better communication outside the EU's frontier, while Dr. Penzes' paper focused on the need to build better economic relations between the Eastern Member States and the neighborhood.

The first stop from Ukraine in the dissemination activity at the Eastern border of the European Union was at the University of Uzhgorod, in the city of Uzhgorod, Zakarpattia Oblast, where the project team was met by local officials, such as Mr. Ledida Oleksandr, the Head of the Transkarpatian Regional Administration, and the rector of the University of Uzhgorod, Prof. dr. Vashuk Fedir. Before the panel, the *Initiative and Constraint in the Mapping of Evolving European Borders* project was presented by prof. Ariane Landuyt, who emphasized the main activities and achievements of the project team, as well as the following activities of the project, the number of the sources that were collected, while prof. Ioan Horga presented the digital side of the project: the website and the sources that have been collected. The general themes of the papers revolved around EU's relations with the neighboring countries, especially at the Eastern Border. Using the border concept, the authors revolved around the need for the EU to focus on cross-border activity and cross-border identities in order to foster better neighborhood relations. These ideas were, of course, applied to Ukraine, as it has been caught in a struggle between East and West. The seminar ended with the tour of the city and departure to the next location.

The third seminar in the dissemination activity was held in the UNESCO heritage site of the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University. The title of the dissemination activity was: *New Approaches in the Communication of EU Border Governance*, on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Like in the previous meetings, the seminar was attended by local and regional officials, Stepan Melynychuk, the rector of the University, Mykhailo Hainicheru, the head of the Chernivtsi Oblast Rada and Ion Popescu, deputy in the Ukrainian Parliament. They were introduced to the activity, objectives and results of the project in a presentation made by prof. Ariane Landuyt and prof. Ioan Horga.

In the panel chaired by prof. Carlos Pacheco Amaral and prof. Anatoly Kruglashov, several concepts were discussed, such as multilevel governance, the special situation of the EU's outermost regions or cross-border cooperation. The participants and audience welcomed the debate related to the cross-border cooperation between Romania and Ukraine, two countries bound by historical connections and tied thanks to the different minorities living on both sides of the borders. In this context, the discussion on the importance of cross-border cooperation and euroregions focused on the need to transform the border between Ukraine and Romania into a more developed connection axis. The seminar ended with a short visit around the university campus.

The final workshop organized in the dissemination activity was held on June, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Chişinău in the capital city of the Republic of Moldova, another member of the Eastern Partnership of the European Neighborhood Policy. The title of the workshop was *The Security Dimension of New EU External Communication*. The seminar started in the presence of local academic officials, the Rectors of the State University of Moldova, prof. Gheorghe Ciocanu and prof. Igor Şarov, the Dean of the Faculty of History and International Relations from the same university. The theme of the seminar regarded the security of borders and how can it be improved without making borders impossible to pass. Alternatively, a rich debate was born after Svetlana Suveica's paper on the debates regarding the Romanian citizenship for Moldavians relating to issues of identity and citizenship. The researcher tried to answer the question whether the Moldovian citizens seek Romanian citizenship for the EU citizenship or rather for identity reasons. The other papers focused on cross border security issues and how these challenges are overcome, using smart borders, or law principles.

The dissemination activity concluded in Chişinău with the presentation of the conclusions of the project and the dissemination by prof. Georgios Contogeorgis on the complexity of borders and the many facets that were discovered during the debates within the itinerant conference entitled *Strategy for Constructive Neighborhood Relations and New EU External Communication*.

Developed across four countries, crossing five borders within and without the European Union, the dissemination activity is one of the most important outputs of the Multilateral Research Group project. Within this activity, both main objectives of the project were accomplished. First and foremost, the direct contact with the border experience helped the professors and involved young researchers to clearly see the impact of the border both inside the European Union and outside its borders. The academic network learnt about the issues of border regions, from security issues to identity and economic issues. The evolution of European borders, both inside the EU and outside could be clearly seen as participants exited the EU space from Romania and Hungary to Ukraine and Moldova. Secondly, the academic team that participated in the seminars and shared their research results across four countries entered in contact with local officials and decision-makers, helping in the creation of a connection with the local academic research and the decision making institutions. The academic network that was founded through this project was indeed strengthened. The papers delivered during the course of this itinerant conference are gathered in the final collective volume of the conference entitled *Strategy for a Constructive Neighborhood Relation and New EU External Communication*. Each paper contains a set of policy recommendations, based on the results of the research, as well as the observations made during the itinerant conference in Romania, Hungary, Ukraine and Moldova.

Mirela MĂRCUȚ  
E-mail: mir3lam@gmail.com

## **THE CELEBRATION OF 10 YEARS OF EDUCATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN STUDIES**

The department of International Relations and European Studies within the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Sciences and Communication Sciences, at the University of Oradea, has celebrated this summer 10 years from the establishment of the International Relations and European Studies.

The event that marked this anniversary took place on Monday, June 3, in the Aula Magna of the University. With this occasion, the exhibition of the scientific research results of the Department of International Relations and European Studies was organized, in which some of the authored books, the volumes of the international conferences and the journals edited by the members of the Department were presented.

The event enjoyed the attendance of local and regional authorities, teachers from the partner universities in the country and abroad, past generations of graduates and also of students from two High Schools in Oradea – the Mihai Eminescu and the Aurel Lazar High Schools.



Greeting and congratulatory messages were presented by the Rector of the University of Oradea, Professor Constantin Bungau; the President of the Bihor County Council, Cornel Popa; the Bihor County Prefect, Claudiu Pop; the Deputy Mayor of Oradea, Ovidiu Muresan; the former Chief Negotiator Romania – EU (2000-2004), former Minister of European Integration (2008-2009), prof. dr. Vasile Puscas, from the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca; the President of the Oradea University Senate, Professor Sorin Curila; the co-Manager of the Institute for Euroregional Studies Debrecen-Oradea, Professor Istvan Suli Zakar, from the University of Debrecen; Professor Maria Manuela Tavares Ribeiro, from the University of Coimbra; the vice-President of the Romanian Association of International Relations and European Studies, RAIRES – ECSA Romania, the President of the Commission for Political, Social and Communication

Sciences in ARACIS, Professor Adrian Ivan, from the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca; from the NATO Centre of Excellence in Oradea, Colonel Marin Dinca; from NSPAS Bucharest, Senior Lecturer George Anglitoiu; from the West University in Timisoara, Professor Grigore Silasi; an exceptional graduate of the first generation of the IRES specialization, Mihai Jurca.



All the guests saluted the results and reputation that the IRES Department team acquired in the country and abroad in the ten years of existence, through research and teaching, both circumscribed to the desire to form valuable students, with skills and competences that meet the demands and challenges of the current socio-economic environment.

The emergence of this specialization at the University of Oradea started from several premises, including: the tradition, the internationalization of the University of Oradea, the need to prepare through a Masters Degree specialists in regional development, cross-border cooperation and security at the EU external borders and last, but not least, the implementation of a study program with multidisciplinary attributes that meets the required model imposed by the implementation of the Bologna educational concept. The creation of the Department of International Relations and European Integration in 2000, at the initiative of the Rector Teodor Maghiar, entrusted to manage to Professor Ioan Horga was, on the one hand, an active lever for developing a consistent inter-university relations with similar institutions in Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, in particular through the Erasmus program. On the other hand, it was intended to be the framework for the initiation of several teaching and research projects, targeting International Relations and European Studies. The inauguration of the International Center for Euroregional Research (ICER) in 2000, the launch of the Euroregional Studies and Cross-border Relations MA (2001) and the beginning, in partnership with the University of Reims Champagne Ardenne and the International Institute of Administrative Sciences in Brussels, of the research project on the impact of the media on the process of European construction, the creation of the "Jean Monnet" Department for Euroregional Studies (2002), as well as, early in 2003, the signing of the agreement through which the University of Oradea became a member of the Siena network of the European Master "Building of Europe", alongside universities in Athens, the Azores, Bologna, Coimbra, Krakow, Granada, Hanover, Salamanca, Siena and Strasbourg, have created the academic and logistical premises for the operation, starting with the 2003-2004 academic year, of the International Relations and European Studies program.

The scientific bases, backed by a team of committed teachers conscious of the mission they received, consisting of renowned professors from the Departments of History and Geography, were strong arguments on which the National Council for Academic Evaluation based its decision to award, on a proposal from Professor Vasile Vese from the "Babes-Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca, the authorization for the provisional functioning of the undergraduate program in International Relations and European Studies (IRES). Meanwhile, a young generation has contributed to the multidisciplinary training of the future graduates of the IRES specialization. European recognition for the teaching and research potential materialized in 2005, the European Commission approving the submitted project for the creation of the Institute for Euroregional Studies Oradea-Debreceen (IERS) as the "Jean Monnet" European Centre of Excellence. IERS soon became a veritable research pole, results being embodied in 17 collective volumes and numerous articles published in the *Eurolimes* magazine, which has established itself as a scientific reference product in international academia.

After a five years long construction and research period, the IRES team had to pass, in 2007-2008, an extremely important test, that of the evaluation of the first three series of graduates, followed by the accreditation of the specialization. The evaluation of the students was made by a committee of teachers from the National School of Political and Administrative Sciences in Bucharest (NSPAS), consisting of Professor Adrian Miroiu, prof. Cezar Barzea and prof. Iordan Gheorghe Barbulescu. All the three promotions evaluated in 2007 and 2008 have passed the exigent exam with a promovability percentage of over 90%, which was an additional argument for the IRES study program accreditation by ARACIS in summer 2009. In the same year, the Regional Development and Institutional Communication in the EU and the European Security Masters programs were both accredited, completing the profound training palette in IRES.

Confident in the academic and research potential, the young team from Oradea managed to diversify the range of programs of study, receiving accreditation for carrying out studies of IRES in English (2010) – the first in the country; of Undergraduate Security Studies (2012), as well as Masters degrees in the field (European Studies - 2011, International Relations – 2011, the Evaluation of European Public Politics and Programs - 2013). The evolution towards more and more specialized types of training is completed since 2010 by obtaining, by prof. Ioan Horga, the right to lead PhD thesis in the IRES domain, in the PhD School of the "Babes-Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca.

Today, the Department of International Relations and European Studies offers, both at undergraduate and Masters levels, fields of study (majors) in Romanian or English, with a strong interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary character. They are dealing with current issues, with a consistent supply of practical activities (at undergraduate level: field applications, internships) and experience exchanges (Erasmus scholarships) in over 60 universities in the European Union. The training that the department offers opens a wide horizon in terms of employment opportunities.

Florentina CHIRODEA  
E-mail: fchirodea@uoradea.ro