

## THE EUROPEANIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN CEE: THE INFLUENCE OF THE PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS UPON THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN ROMANIA BETWEEN 1990- 2005

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**Abstract:** *The paper investigates the Europeanization of political parties in Central and Eastern Europe, focusing on the influence of the Party of European Socialists into the process of reformation and consolidation of the Social Democratic Party in Romania before the country's accession to the European Union. The study argues that the process of Europeanization involved embracing a behavioural model promoted by Western social-democrats in order for the CEE parties to be accepted into their structures. The Europarty's efforts to educate the Social Democratic Party in subjects relevant for its doctrine, the incentives given to prompt change and also the party's desire to gain legitimacy and recognition, facilitated the transformation of the Social Democratic Party in Romania into a genuine social-democratic political organization.*

**Keywords:** *Europarty, European Union, integration, legitimacy, party change*

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