

THE TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP: AN EURO – AMERICAN DEBATE

*Vasile PUȘCAȘ**

Abstract. *The two societal communities (US and EU) waited, after the end of the Cold War, for a real shift in mentalities, attitudes and socio-economic statuses, including in the Euro-Atlantic space. The fall of ideological walls, political and communicational alike, was facilitated also by the new information and transport technologies, by the aspiration of achieving a strong bond between citizens, not just between politicians. The present study will present arguments for transatlantic cooperation and partnership, so that two entities will understand the new perspective for their own citizens and for the entire world.*

Keywords: *atlanticism, europenism, cooperation, US-EU relations*

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THE ROLE OF CONCEPTUAL MAPS IN THE ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN NEGOTIATIONS

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Abstract: *The importance of decision-making has increased significantly in recent years in several specialty areas. The psychological approach of this process provides anchors to the understanding and explanation of its complexity and within other disciplines as well, especially in international relations theory. The present article approaches the conceptual maps, as important predictive elements which can be used by the analysts in the international relations. It give as examples three maps elaborated on a study case from European negotiations, namely Romania's accession negotiations.*

Keywords: *cognitive approach, decision-making, idiosyncrasies, accession negotiations*

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IS THE EUROPEAN UNIFICATION PROCESS STILL VIABLE?

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Abstract: *The European Union had a decisively contribution in develop peace in Europe over the previous six decades. The accelerated process of European integration has produced increased levels of opposition, which have been more prominent since the early 1990s. Opposition has taken various forms and at times halted or delayed attempts to enhance European political unity. Every member state from the EU also faces Euroscepticism from both the citizens and the political parties especially during difficult periods like the Euro crisis in 2008 due to the global market meltdown and recently the migrant crisis caused by the civil war in Syria and the EU-Russia relation, but Euroscepticism started way before this with the political figures who were scared for the national supremacy over the supranational one of the EU.*

Keywords: *integration, process, European Union, treaty*

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LE CONSENSUS EUROPEEN A L'EPREUVE DE LA CRISE UKRAINIENNE

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Abstract: *The European Union is facing a big challenge with the Ukrainian crisis. It is about time to show its capacity to unite all its member States with a common position to support its neighbour. However, it appears that some member States are not helpful in building a strong political voice for the Union. Here we have a look at some member states representing different behaviour in facing an international crisis, thus explaining the difficulties of the EU in building a common foreign policy: the exclusiveness of France and Germany in the negotiation process, the discretion of Romania, the interest of Poland in a weaker Russia, the fears of the Baltic States, and the specificity of Hungary.*

Keywords: *Union européenne – Ukraine – Etats membres - Intérêt national – Préférence nationale*

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CYBERWAR & CYBERTERRORISM HEADING TOWARDS A CYBER-WATERLOO

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Abstract: *The purpose of this paper is to give an in depth analysis on today's internet threats with particular emphasis on all kinds of cyber crime. The national and international security consequences of malicious use of the internet, represents a struggle for every organisation, state and individual user. In a world where governments rely on network computer technology, a possible cyber-attack is an imminent concern and a guaranteed threat. The present analysis starts with a quantitative evaluation of cyberterminology, giving scientific definitions. It is followed by examples and situation that were created to undermine the power of a nation (i.e. Estonia, Iran with the Stuxnet virus) or government. This article examines a case study about a cyber warfare in the Middle East and furthermore we investigate how a country could be marching to a possible cyber – Waterloo as well as go into details on how the same country could strengthen its cyber safety to prevent such a scenario.*

Keywords: *cyber crime, cyber threats, cyber warfare, infrastructure, terrorism*

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THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA-FROM PARTNER TO ASSOCIATE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract: *The European Union through the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) wishes to elaborate an alternative method in terms of the EU-neighbouring countries relationship, a relationship based on common values that are shared by both parties of the partnership. At first, the article will present to the reader the influence of the EU, based on the ENP, in its Eastern borders. Then, to observe how the EU relationship evolved during the years with one of the Eastern countries we have chosen to study its relations with Moldova, mainly because this country and its European vocation might represent an example to other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that would like to approach the European Union. In the end the research will bring forward a comparative analysis of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and of the Association Agreement (AA) signed by the EU and Moldova.*

Keywords: *European Neighbourhood Policy, Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, Association Agreement, Eastern neighbours.*

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MAJORITIES AND MINORITIES: CASE STUDY OF HUNGARY'S ROMANI POPULATION

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Abstract: *In their study, the authors focus on the situation of Romani population in Hungary in past and present focusing on the censuses from 1782, 1893, and also providing valid figures for the present days (700.000 of Gypsies in the actual Hungary). They identify three categories of Gypsies: Hungarian gypsies or Romungros, Vlach group that migrated from Wallachia in the 19th century and Boyash gypsies that migrated from Banat and Southern Transylvania in 19th century. The authors wrote on integration and assimilation of Gypsies considering that the ideal multicultural society has failed, focusing on factors hindering integration and factors favorizing assimilation.*

Keywords: *Gypsies, integration, segregation, assimilation, discrimination, marginalisation, migration.*

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VIDEO ART INTERCULTURAL DIMENSION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES. THE *VIDEO ART* *EVENT PROJECT*

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Abstract: *Today, we are not surprised anymore by the huge monitors that “adorn” urban places. In this sense video art tends to leave the interior, where it was born due to television, getting literally out in the open and in this way approaching to its nomadic nature. Equally, the ideatic and critical aspect need an update in challenging the world of the Internet, a world that calls into question the idea of boundary, the boundary of the private space in relation to the public and the delineation of the sphere of the local area communication in relation to an international one. One of the representative artistic manifestations, to illustrate the movement of the genre focal point from television to internet is the Video Art Event project, an annual international video art event that has been taking place since 2010 in Oradea and Milan.*

Keywords: *virtual world, video creation, boundary issues, interdisciplinary dialogue*

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RELIGION: INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC SPHERE? A DEBATE AROUND THE HABERMAS MODEL

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Abstract: *This article intends to analyze the role of religion in the public sphere in Habermas' theory. Despite the fact that the concept has been launched in a book published in 1961, only in 2005 the well-known German thinker has dealt explicitly with this issue. Even the critics of his public sphere model do not mention the lack of religion from the whole paradigm. Some of Habermas' writings related to religion prior to 2005 are discussed. The role of religion in the public sphere is, according to Habermas, related with the issue of religious freedom and the State - Church separation, a model opposed to French laïcité. For Habermas, the state must not only be neutral to the religious discourse, but it must also encourage the participation of political organizations to public life. Another issue that is discussed by Habermas is the relationship between religious majorities and minorities. Habermas does assume a middle position between laïcité and the refuse of the modernity-imposed borders, between religion and politics. The article takes an insight into the way Charles Taylor deals with the role of religion in the public sphere, a helpful argument for showing that the debate on this issue is only at the beginning.*

Keywords: *modernity; public sphere; religion; secularization; separation between State and Church*

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NEW DATA ON THE HISTORY OF JEWS FROM ROMANIA

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Abstract: *The present paper brings new information about the situation of Jews of Romania in the time of Holocaust and its aftermath (the years of transition to communism and the first years after the setting of communism). It appears that the Jews from Transnistria were deprived by their fundamental rights under the leadership of Ion Antonescu and many of them were killed in their interaction with Romanian military forces. After the war, the surviving Jews have the right to adjust to the communist regime, and to integrate in the communist state, but they have to close their organizations and the ties with Israel were considered as dangerous, although they continued to dream and search ways for emigration.*

Keywords: *Jews, Transnistria, rights, fascism, communism, exodus*

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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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THE EUROPEANIZATION OF DOMESTIC REPRESENTATION STRUCTURES: OPERATIONALIZING THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE

*Oana-Andreea ION**

Abstract: *In this article it is explored the Europeanization of national political parties, as domestic representation structures. The author argues that Europeanization studies focused more on policies cases, at the expense of researches oriented towards polity or politics items, and that this domain of the academic literature should be filled out with more comparative approaches. The interest of the author goes towards designing and/or explaining a specific set of indicators that could be used for operationalizing the party dependent variable in order to analyse if the European factors determined specific changes within the domestic political parties, changes that can be seen as an “Europeanization” effect. In the article, there are analyzed: (a) the concept of Europeanization (working definition, domains, magnitude and direction); (b) the indicators used by scholars for assessing the Europeanization of political parties; (c) the outcomes outlined in the existing literature (a critical perspective); and (d) the research methods applied in this field, with specific mentions for the differences existing between Western and Eastern case studies. The findings indicate a series of domains that should be further exploited via counterfactual reasoning or process tracing techniques in order to better grasp EU’s influence on party politics, with the final goal of improving the functions parties perform in national and European democracies, and reducing the democratic deficit associated to European issues presented and debated in member states and at the European level.*

Keywords: *democratic deficit, Europeanization, methodology, political parties, representation structures*

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ABOUT MORAL CRISIS OF EUROPEAN VALUES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract: *This paper aims to introduce you to the analysis of the relationship between the social phenomenon of globalization and social values, more precisely, European social values. In other words, we will look at the effects and implications of globalization, and the challenges of this phenomenon of social globalization on the European cultural scene.*

In the first part of the paper we will focus on the importance and timeliness of this topic about values and society and in the second part we will describe the social phenomenon of globalization, clearly, without any claim of comprehensibility in movement. Then, we'll present the social values and their transition to the European space as a cultural and valuable space, emphasizing in the end the importance and necessity of the European values for the big European project. And, finally, we are going to highlight the links between globalization and social value systems, considering the crisis of values based on cause and effect.

Keywords: *Globalization, European Values , Culture, Sociocultural, Ethics*

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THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES FROM THE NORTH-WESTERN ROMANIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMIES

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Abstract. *The knowledge-based economy requires that research-development activities contribute to the creation of added value. Innovation, another important component of this type of economy, constitutes, in turn, an indicator of global competitiveness. In the national and supranational processes and strategies to implementation of regional knowledge-based economy, a leading role is played by universities, turned into spaces of the integrated approach of the triangle education-research-innovation. The study aims to analyse the involvement of higher education institutions in the North-West Development Region in the transformation of the local economy. The data collected will allow us to highlight the mechanisms through which partnerships involving academic communities fail to transform knowledge from publications, patents and prototypes in technologies and “services economically and socially assimilated”.*

Keywords: *universities role, knowledge-based economy, North-West Development Region*

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COLLECTIVE EXPRESSING AND ROLE OF PUBLIC OPINION IN EUROPEAN SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: *This material contains in its first part a presentation about the social phenomenon of public opinion. We try to analyze the role that public opinion plays in contemporary organization of global societies in general and the European Union in particular. Also we show that public homogeneity and social support for global societies depends on social representations of European citizenship status. Paradigm of spiral of silence, initiated by German author Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann is a starting point for explaining the differences between Romanians and European's average, related to the intensity with which they are involved in politic matters. The conclusions of this work focuses on the role of opinion polls in the development and evolution of the European Space.*

Keywords: *collective mentality, public opinion, social control, European Union, global society, collective behavior*

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THE MAIN FOREIGN INVESTORS IN THE ROMANIAN ECONOMY. DIPLOMATIC REASONS AND ECONOMIC FACTS

*Elena RUSU**

Abstract. *Since the country's return to democracy and market economy, the Romanian economy can still be defined as a developing economy, its attractiveness being influenced mostly by the country's EU membership. Attracting foreign investors contributes to the development of the State and apart from the economic rationale, the investors are also influenced through the channel of economic diplomacy. This paper focuses on identifying the main foreign investor in the Romanian economy during the last 10 years, both at the country level, but also as concrete examples of investments. Thus, a picture of these actors is created after identifying the main reasons to invest in Romania, both in terms of economic benefits and also because of the actions undertaken within relations of economic diplomacy.*

Keywords: *international company, foreign capital, economic benefits, diplomatic relationship, economic diplomacy.*

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CROSS-BORDER POLICE COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract: *The paper aims to undertake an analysis of a less researched area that of cross-border police cooperation in the European Union. We will track the way how police cooperation followed the European construction process: police cooperation in the European Community; the birth of the TREVI Group; police cooperation and the Schengen area; police cooperation within the Treaties of Maastricht, Amsterdam, Nice and Lisbon, finishing with the analysis of the intergovernmental arrangements at EU level and the attention given to cross-border police cooperation.*

Keywords: *cross-border police cooperation, Schengen, TREVI Group, EU, terrorism, crime*

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POLYCENTRIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN ROMANIA AT THE FIRST LOCAL LEVEL OF THE NUTS SYSTEM (LAU1)

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Abstract: *Polycentric development has been in the focus of the European Union (EU) for more than two decades now, as an engine for social, economic and territorial cohesion, though its roots go deeper in time. It is a concept that is normally linked to the urban environment. However, in this study, the first local level of the NUTS system will be discussed, the equivalent of which, in Romania, would include both urban and rural administrative units.*

In this paper, two opposing initiatives, which aim at imposing a polycentric evolution at the discussed scale of analysis, will be presented and analysed. The first one implies a voluntary, inside-out construction, sustained by the current legislation, while the second one implies a non-voluntary, outside-in construction, based on multiple-criteria analysis.

The first part of the study provides an overview of polycentric development and some of the different conceptual views that have been proposed over time. A few characteristics of it are emphasized and the concept is put into the perspective of our case study. The second part of the study provides an overview of the current administrative system of Romania and of the ranking system used to categorize the urban and rural hierarchy of the country. The third part of the study presents the two initiatives, a legislative one and a regional one, and compares them against each-other and against the territorial realities of Romania.

The findings suggest that, while the regional initiative seems to have died out without producing any effects, the legislative one has the potential for balancing out and raising the level of development of the less developed areas while, at the same time, deepening the economic disparities between the developed and the less developed areas.

Keywords: *Polycentric development, Romania, Territorial Planning Units, Metropolitan Areas, Intercommunity Development Associations, NUTS4/LAU1*

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POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN POLAND: A SPECIAL CASE OR A GENERAL RULE?

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‘If we want things to stay as they are, everything will have to change.’
(Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa)

Abstract: *The goal of this work is an attempt at ascertaining the actual and not alleged architects-beneficiaries of transformation and later integration with the EU. The first hypothesis is that the transformation was possible, and even unavoidable, thanks to the change of the fundamental purpose (role) of Polish economy, inspired, stimulated, and accepted by the Soviet Union from the role of a supplier of the Soviet arms industry to a natural goal of the free market economy, that is obtaining profits by satisfying needs. The second hypothesis is that the architects and the beneficiaries of changes in the political system of Poland – the so-called political transformation – was not as much Solidarity as the elites (old and new – whatever it means) originating from the People’s Republic of Poland,¹ and the invited – to use Comrade Lenin’s handy phrase – “useful fools”. The initiated changes were eagerly supported, and still are supported and even guaranteed by the international capital operating in the shadow of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the institutions of the European Union, perceiving new opportunities of expansion therein.*

Keywords: *People’s Republic of Poland, PRL, Polish Third Republic, III RP, secret service, Polish Round Table*

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