

V. Honoured Personality

**IN HONOREM PROFESSOR IOAN HORGA, CELEBRATING
60 YEARS**



IOAN HORGA – VISIONARY, PROFESSOR AND RESEARCHER BY VOCATION¹

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Ioan Horga was born sixty years ago, on an April day, in Țara Moșilor Region, on the middle course of Arieș River, in a village scattered on the slopes of the Apuseni Mountains². His education started in his native village. After completing secondary school in 1971, he continued his studies at "Horea, Cloșca and Crișan" High School, in Abrud. Starting with 1976, he became student at one of the oldest faculties of "Babes - Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca, that of History - Philosophy³, a "peak institution in relation to similar faculties in the country"⁴. Despite the "gradual restrictions of activity, restructuring, internal merging" and "the chronic underfunding"⁵ that defined the second half of the 70s, the Historical Schools⁶, founded in Cluj Napoca by Constantin Daicoviciu,

¹ This paper was published in Mircea Brie, Alina Stoica, Florentina Chirodea (coord.), *The European Space Borders and Issues. In Honorem Professor Ioan Horga*, Editura Universității din Oradea/Debrecean University Press, Oradea/Debrecean, 2016, p.15-40.

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² Mușca settlement residents were confirmed as presence ever since the 'primitive commune'. Later sporadic archaeological discoveries and numerous documents testify to the continuity of the ancient village community from the period of the Roman occupation until today. Currently, the village belongs administratively to Lupșa, best known for its tourist attractions, among which one can mention: the Ethnographic and Folk Art Museum, founded by Professor Pamfil Albu opened in 1939 and housed in a building dating from 1800 (the museum houses over 6000 exhibits from Țara Moșilor ethnographic region, including a valuable collection of icons on glass and wood from the 18th and the 19th centuries); the Orthodox wooden church in the village of Valea Lupsii (dating from 1429, restored in 1694 and plastered in 1865); Lupșa monastery; the church from Hădărău village (1770). The census of 2011 registered only 531 inhabitants. See *The history of Lupșa village* available at http://www.primarialupsa.ro/lupsa_istoricul-localitatii-109.html, accessed on November 28th, 2016; Dan Ghinea, *Enciclopedia geografică a României*, Encyclopedic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2000, available at http://enciclopediaromaniei.ro/wiki/Lupsa_Commune, accessed on November 28th, 2016; *Geamăna, un sat din Munții Apuseni*, available at <http://www.vacancesicalatorii.ro/modules/revista/articole/articol.php?artID=2182>, accessed on November 28th, 2016; Alba Regional Statistics Department, *Tables of the Population and Housing Census - 2011. The Rural Population of Alba County at the census from 2011*, available at http://www.alba.inssse.ro/cmsalba/rw/pages/rezultate_rpl.ro.do, accessed on November 28th, 2016

³ The history of the Faculty of History – Philosophy, "Babeș-Bolyai" University Cluj-Napoca, available at <http://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/despre/prezentare/istoric>, accessed on November 28th, 2016

⁴ Vasile Vese, „Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai” în perioada regimului comunist 1959 – 1989”, in Ovidiu Ghita (coord.), *Istoria Universității „Babeș-Bolyai”*, Mega Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2012, p. 281

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 285

⁶ The term is used by professor Vasile Vese in a chapter dedicated to the History of „Babes-Bolyai” University during the period of the Communist regime (1959-1989) in order to characterize the teaching and research activity performed from the initiative or with the contribution of distinguished specialists from Cluj.

Stefan Pascu, Zsigmond Jakó, Virgil Vătășianu, Nicolae Lascu or Camil Mureșanu⁷ continued their remarkable research activity in the fields of archeology, medieval and modern history of Romania, the history of Transylvania, world history or art history. The major lines of study, opened by renowned professors from Cluj-Napoca, were continued, in the coming years, by some young teachers, who eventually became prominent names of contemporary historiography. The responsibility for the formation of young historians was undertaken by distinguished professors, among whom we should mention: academician Camil Mureșanu, Dean of the Faculty of History - Philosophy⁸ between 1968-1976, academician Dumitru Protase – who, from 1974 on, became senior lecturer at the faculty mentioned above⁹, academician Pompiliu Teodor - Head of the Department of Middle History and Historiography¹⁰, emeritus professor Vasile Vese - lecturer and then reader at the Department of Universal History¹¹, emeritus professor Ioan Piso, assistant lecturer and then lecturer at the same Department, professor Nicolae Bocșan – assistant lecturer between 1978-1982, professor Ovidiu Mureșanu – assistant lecturer between 1978-1984, professor Avram Andea - assistant professor between 1971-1981.

Valedictorian at the end of the four years of study, Ioan Horga became teacher of History at „Înfrățirea” Industrial High School, in Oradea, activity that he conducted until 1984. At the age of 28, he became member, first of the Municipal and then of the County Young Communist Union Committee, where he was responsible with the education sector. In the 5 years that followed, his qualities as teacher were fully demonstrated in the organization of professional contests and school Olympiads for the pupils of Bihor county¹², especially in the national stages of those competitions (the National Informatics Olympiad was held in Oradea in 1989)¹³. From 1990, the professor Ioan Horga returned to the teaching activity, gaining tenure at the Department of History of "Emanuil Gojdu" National College. A year later, he began his collaboration with the freshly set up University of Oradea and got a doctoral scholarship at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France. On May 30th, 1995, in front of a commission made up of renowned specialists in modern history, church history and Romanian history (J.

⁷ Vasile Vese, *op. cit.*, p. 281-282

⁸ *In memoriam, academician Camil Mureșanu*, article published in the on-line edition of the Făclia newspaper, in February 25th, 2015, available at <http://ziarulfacalia.ro/in-memoriam-academician-camil-muresanu/>, accessed on November 29th, 2016

⁹ Eugen Gheorghe, *Academicianul năsaudean Dumitru Protase, decorat de președintele României*, article published in August, 11, 2016 on the website www.timponline.ro, available at <http://www.timponline.ro/academicianul-nasaudean-dumitru-protase-decorat-de-presedintele-romaniei/>, accessed in November, 29th, 2016

¹⁰ Doru Radosav, *Pompiliu Teodor - profesor și istoric (1930-2001)*, in Nicolae Bocșan, *Tentația istoriei. In memoria profesorului Pompiliu Teodor*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2003, p. 7-15

¹¹ See the official site of the Faculty of History – Philosophy, "Babeș-Bolyai" University, available at <http://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/despre/prezentare/istoric>, accessed in November 29th, 2016

¹² *Ioan Horga, candidat la Rectorat: "Vreau să scoatem Universitatea din ghetoisare"*, article published in on-line edition of the Bihoreanul newspaper, in Aprilie, 22th, 2012, available at <http://www.ebihoreanul.ro/stiri/ultima-or-31-6/ioan-horga-candidat-la-rectorat-vreau-sa-scoatem-universitatea-din-ghetoizare--101026.html>, accessed in December, 5th, 2016

¹³ Official website of the National Informatics Olympiad available at <http://www.lego.rdsor.ro/oni98/info/ist.html>, accessed in December, 5th, 2016

Bérenger, Viviane Barrie-Currien – as thesis coordinator, Catherine Durandin¹⁴, Grunberg Bernard¹⁵, Pompiliu Teodor¹⁶) doctoral student Ioan Horga defended his thesis on „L’Église gréco-catholique roumaine (uniatè) de Transylvanie à l’époque des Lumières. L’évêché d’Oradea (1780-1830)”¹⁷, obtaining his PhD in History with the qualification *Tres honorable a l’umanite*¹⁸. At the same time, his collaboration with the University of Oradea became permanent by his tenure, in 1992, to the position of lecturer at the Department of History of the Faculty of History - Geography. The quality of his teaching and research activity have always been the strong points of his academic career, his tenure in the post of lecturer (1997) and assistant professor (2000), confirming his expertise in the field of modern and contemporary history, history of Europe and European integration.

His remarkable research and teaching experience was appreciated in major European university centers, professor Ioan Horga being invited to conference and deliver lectures and courses to students from Universities and Institutes in: Reims (France)¹⁹, Siena (Italy)²⁰, Nancy (France)²¹, Wroclaw (Poland)²², Paris (France)²³, Montpellier (France)²⁴, Bologna - Campus Forli (Italy)²⁵, Coimbra (Portugal), Salamanca (Spain), Rzeszow (Poland), Alicante (Spain)²⁶, Bratislava (Slovakia), Banska Bistrika (Slovakia) ,

¹⁴ Professor at the National Institute of Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Superior Institute of International and Strategic Relations, specialist in the history of Romania, see <http://www.inalco.fr/recherche-generale/durandin>, accessed in December, 5th, 2016

¹⁵ Professor of modern History at the University of Reims, specialist in the history of Latin America, See <http://www.univ-reims.fr/site/laboratoire-labellise/habiter-ea-2076/1-equipe,11220,20294.html?>, accessed in December, 5th, 2016

¹⁶ Professor of History at ”Babes-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, renowned specialist of the Enlightenment and pioneer in fields such as the history of ideas, the Romanian enlightenment and church history. See Doru Radosav, *op. cit.*, p. 7-9

¹⁷ See database of the University of Reims, available at <http://www.theses.fr/1995REIML004>, accessed in December, 6th, 2016

¹⁸ The diploma has been acknowledged by Romanian authorities based on the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3763/30.04.1996.

¹⁹ Collaboration starts in 1998; at present, professor Ioan Horga teaches at the University of Reims, as Associate professor, the course entitled *Regional development policy & Central and Eastern Europe in Transition* and is member of the scientific committee of the Master studies programme “Specialists in the field of Integration and Neighborhood European Policies”

²⁰ Since 2003 he has been member of the scientific committee of the Master’s programme “Building of Europe” at the University of Siena and holds, as associate professor, the courses *EU’s Cohesion Policy* and *European Neighborhood Policy*

²¹ The collaboration with the University of Nancy started in 2005 and covered a period of 8 years, being invited to conference on themes such as The new interpretation of the EU’s east frontier; Romania and EU

²² In 2006 he was invited to conference in front of the students and the teaching staff of the University on the theme: *Romanian Integration in EU: present and future*

²³ In 2007 he was invited at the Institute of Political Sciences to conference on the theme *Religious frontiers and The New Europe*

²⁴ As visiting professor at the University of Montpellier, he held the conference *European Cohesion Policy* (2008).

²⁵ The conference *European Neighborhood Policy at the Eastern Frontier of EU* is held in 2010 as visiting professor

²⁶ As part of the Erasmus Teaching Mobility Programme he delivers courses at the University of Alicante and Coimbra (the university year 2003-2004), Salamanca (university year 2004-2005) and Rzeszow (university year 2007-2008)

Brescia (Italy), Venice (Italy), Krakow (Poland), Lublin (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic), Hannover (Germany), Maribor (Slovenia)²⁷. His work was rewarded with distinctions such as: the *Pro Cooperazione Award* of the Academy of Hungarian Sciences - Debrecen Branch (2003)²⁸ the *Pro Universitas Award*, from the University of Debrecen (2010), the *Award of Excellence* of the Ministry of Culture of Romania (2010), the *Award of Excellence* of the European Institute of Romania (2012). In 2013, the National University in Uzhgorod, Ukraine, awarded him the distinction of *Doctor Honoris Causa* for the contributions brought to the fields of science and education.

The extensive experience accumulated in European universities, as well as the close understanding of internationalization projects and strategies promoted by such institutions determined professor Ioan Horga to bring forth similar objectives to the heads of Oradea University, in 2000. As a result, by the Rector's decision, a Department of International Relations and European Integration was established within the University of Oradea, with the mission of "promoting contacts with other universities and institutions abroad, in order to open the possibility for the participation of students, teachers and researchers in mobility programs, research and professional training"²⁹. As head of that department, professor Ioan Horga institutionalized "active levers for developing a consistent package of inter-university relations with similar institutions from Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary."³⁰ For 7 years, European programs, aimed at increasing the mobility of teachers and students in the European space, along with programs that could attract European funds for teaching or research projects were intensively promoted. During his mandate, Oradea University signed an Agreement for Scientific and Teaching Cooperation whereby the University became a member of the group of institutions enabled to organize the master's degree program *The Process of Building Europe*³¹; professor Ioan Horga also managed the General Secretariat of the Carpathian Region Universities Association (ACRU)³².

The institutional framework thus created, professor Ioan Horga managed to use favorable circumstances in order to implement the project "Action Learning for SMEs in Bihor, Salaj and Satu Mare counties - a new model of entrepreneurial school in the field of human resources", funded by Phare Program 2000 Economic and Social Cohesion, Human Resources Development. The actions performed in association with the partners in the project (the Local Council of SMEs of Oradea, Salaj Branch of SMEs, The Chamber

²⁷ See the structure of Romanian Association of the International Relations and European Studies available at <http://www.rise.org.ro/structura/ioan-horga/>, accessed in December, 6th, 2016

²⁸ The prize was awarded for the collaboration with Hungarian specialists, for the quality of conferences held as part of Symposia and Scientific Sessions organized in our neighboring country, as well as for the studies published in Hungarian journals.

²⁹ See the official website of the International Relations Department, University of Oradea, available at [http://arhiva-www.uoradea.ro/romanian/topic/52/Departamentul\\$de\\$Relatii\\$Internationale.html#prez](http://arhiva-www.uoradea.ro/romanian/topic/52/DepartamentuldeRelatii$Internationale.html#prez), accessed in December, 6th, 2016

³⁰ Ioan Horga (coord.), *10 ani de Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene*, Oradea University Press, Oradea, 2013, p. 6

³¹ See the official website of the Centro di Ricerca sull'Integrazione Europea. Master in European Studies, available at <http://www.crie.unisi.it/en/1004/master-in-european-studies.htm>, accessed in December, 6th, 2016

³² Between 2006 and 2009, professor Ioan Horga held the position of Secretary General of this inter-university association. Currently he is the University of Oradea representative. See the official website of the *Association of Carpathian Region Universities. Membership*, available at <http://acru.uvlf.sk/membership.html>, accessed in December, 6th, 2016

of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Satu Mare, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bihor, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Salaj, The Revans Institute for Action Learning & Research - University of Salford, UK) led to the establishment of the Center for Information and European Consultancy (CICE), which was provided with the necessary technical and informatics equipment, and a specialized book fund, later included in the CICE library; a total of 300 students from the University of Oradea (support staff and teaching staff with managerial positions) and different business representatives from Bihor, Salaj and Satu Mare also benefited from training sessions. Another source of funding used was the Jean Monnet Programme of the European Commission, which opened the possibility to establish, in 2002, at the University of Oradea, two Jean Monnet Chairs, one of them being the Euroregional Studies one³³, headed by professor Ioan Horga³⁴. The interdisciplinary character of this Jean Monnet Chair was fully valued in activities related to the *Euroregional Studies and Cross-border Relations* Master's program, students from Oradea having thus the possibility to deepen their knowledge in various fields (economics, geography, international relations, European studies, CBC, history, communication, law, etc.) and gain practice as employees characterized by an open mind and the ability to communicate in a multicultural environment.

With a constant concern for developing curricular areas that the University of Oradea could make available to high school graduates, professor Ioan Horga, together with colleagues from the Departments of History, Sociology and Law, set up, in 2003, the International Relations and European Studies (RISE) license program. The wide range of scientific areas that were part of the proposed subjects in the curriculum ensured the formation of graduates with solid interdisciplinary training, so as they might be able to meet job requirements. Moreover, from the very first semester, students had the opportunity to study at least two foreign languages and acquire skills in the field of information and communication technology. Another key feature of the curriculum was the practical character of most courses offered to students, and especially the internships performed by students in institutions and organizations in Oradea. For their deployment, professor Ioan Horga concluded cooperation agreements with The Council of SMEs Bihor, The Employers' Federation of Bihor county, Oradea Metropolitan Area, The Prefecture of Bihor County, the Carpathian Euroregion Foundation etc., thereby strengthening the links between the University of Oradea and the local socio-economic environment. In addition to the theoretical and practical training of students, professors Ioan Horga also created an environment where students could express their ideas freely, present projects or demonstrate their knowledge. As expected, the management of Bachelor and Master specializations were provided first by the Collective of European Studies and International Relations, and then by the Department of International Relations and European Studies, structures created at the initiative of professor Ioan Horga. The team of teachers and scholars gathered around Ioan Horga imposed itself, over the years, as a "close-knit and dynamic structure"³⁵, individualized within the national and the European academic environment.

In the scientific domain, with the same energy and determination, directed for the benefit of Oradea academic community, professor Ioan Horga strengthened the collaboration with the team of researchers from the Department of Geography and Regional Development at the University of Debrecen. Together with professor Istvan Suli-

³³ Department established by the EAC/A2/BBQ/AmD decision no.16138, of July 24th, 2002.

³⁴ Ioan Horga (coord.), *op. cit.*, p. 40

³⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 11

Zakar, he laid the foundations the *Institute for Euroregional Studies Oradea-Debrece*n (ISER, 2005), as Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence³⁶. Meanwhile, ISER has become a real "research pole for European border issues"³⁷, the results being published in *EuroTimes*³⁸ and in numerous collectively edited volumes³⁹. Under the aegis of the Institute, the research team carried out numerous projects with European, local and national financing. Thus, in addition to coordinating the Jean Monnet Modules earned⁴⁰ ISER members have implemented projects funded by: PHARE CBC 2006 INTERREG III A; Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Hungary - Romania 2007 - 2013; Transnational Cooperation Programme South East Europe; the European Commission – European Thematic Network for European Studies. With another funding direction, the local one, research was also performed, its results contributing to the understanding of the local and the regional past, to the valuing of heritage and the development of the local community⁴¹.

His experience, exigency, energy, visionary spirit, obvious organizational and interpersonal skills, fully demonstrated throughout his entire professional activity, were elements that recommended professor Ioan Horga for the position of Vice Rector of the University of Oradea. Despite the very short term of office (2007-2008), the objective to increase the number of collaborative partnerships, concluded with other European universities, was doubled by that of ensuring the openness of the academic space to both civil society and the media. By the creation of an Office for Communication, University of Oradea managed to develop an institutional relationship with the local and national media and enter the online environment, the beneficial effects being visible in improved communication with different actors in society and the constant contact with the public opinion. In 2008, Ioan Horga resigned from the Vice-Rector position to become Dean of the Faculty of History, Geography and International Relations, a position he occupies at present at the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Science and Communication Studies.

Benefiting from an extensive educational and scientific activity and being animated by a constant desire to discover and shape young researchers, Professor Ioan Horga directed his efforts towards coordinating doctoral internships. In 2006, he began supervising doctoral theses in the field of History, as part of the Doctoral School within the University of Oradea, and continued to materialize his desire to form many specialists in international relations and European studies in 2010, when he moved to "Babes-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca⁴². His skills and expertise are recognized at the European

³⁶ It is the 3rd created Center of Excellence, after those in Cluj-Napoca and Timișoara. In 2010, a similar center was created in Iasi.

³⁷ Ioan Horga (coord.), *op. cit.*, p. 9

³⁸ Biannual publication, listed in international databases, *EuroTimes* appeared in the local publishing landscape in 2006. Under the guidance of Professor John Horga, the editorial staff publishes thematic issues, offering each time a different perspective on borders. See the website of the *EuroTimes* journal, available at http://www.igri.ro/?page_id=441, accessed in December 6th, 2016

³⁹ The 26 volumes published so far can be accessed on the official ISER website of ISER, available at <http://www.iser.rdsor.ro/e-books.htm>, accessed in December 6th, 2016

⁴⁰ See the official site of ISER, Projects section, available at <http://www.iser.rdsor.ro/project.htm>, accessed in December, 6th, 2016

⁴¹ Ioan Horga (coord.), *op. cit.*, p. 50-53

⁴² In 2010 he receives the right to conduct doctoral theses in international relations and European studies within the Doctoral School - the International Relations and Security Studies. See The Doctoral School of the International Relations and Security Studies – teaching personnel, available at

level as well. Thus, in the period 2009 – 2010, professor Ioan Horga was invited to become member of The Commission for the assessment of doctoral theses, as part of the annual competition organized by the Committee of the Regions. The scientific, professional and ethical character of his supervising activity, along with the patience demonstrated in outlining every niche of research and dedication to follow the development of each doctoral student are reflected in the several dozens of doctoral thesis supervised so far by professor Ioan Horga, and also in the character of young specialists whom he mentored.

It is not an easy task to present, in just a few pages, the prodigious activity of the person to whom this volume is dedicated. Surely some biographical data might have been omitted, others have been probably just mentioned, while others are extensively presented. We can, however, conclude that the following elements characterize Ioan Horga's personality: innovative and inventive spirit; energy invested in each project; determination to reach objectives; seriousness and rigor in addressing each activity; warmth and passion demonstrated while talking to students and doctoral students; care for younger colleagues, materialized in valuable pieces of advice, and respect for senior colleagues; dedication in defending the interests of the collective to which he belongs. By summarizing in few words his personality, we merely begin to shape a portrait, based on vocational qualities of the Professor IOAN HORGA

THE VOCATION OF RESEARCH: THE EUROPEAN SPACE AND THE STUDY OF BORDERS IN THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF PROFESSOR IOAN HORGA¹

*My gratitude to my Professor
to whom I owe my entire career!*

Mircea BRIE*

The contemporary European realities, the European construction and the particularities of the EU are general themes that define the milestones of rich scientific research of Professor Ioan Horga in the last two decades. His scientific work, which includes historical research during his early career, has about 200 titles. These works include research analysis and synthesis published as monographs, books of sole author or in collaboration with others, coordinated and edited collective volumes and conference proceedings, specialized studies and articles published in prestigious ISI journals or in various international databases. His publications have been published by prestigious publishing houses and journals of institutions in the country and abroad (France, Belgium, Britain, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Italy, USA, Spain, Ukraine, Sweden, Germany, etc.).

Trained as a historian, Ioan Horga managed through his interest in international relations, European studies and security studies, and through a wide openness to interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary, to give his research a complex perspective and necessary understanding of phenomena and processes current in the Europe of today.

His research activity is crowned by a rich activity in academic teaching. He is, through his role in the academic landscape from Oradea and at national level, a road opener, a founder of the school, a benchmark for the new generation that he has helped to shape.

From this perspective, mainly I but also my colleagues at the University of Oradea, owe respect for a man who served a cause: the creation of a school of international relations and European studies at Oradea. Furthermore, the inclination towards niche areas such as research on the (euro)regional development, on the study of borders and CBC managed to put Oradea on the map. His research is, from this point of view, a reference standard nationally and internationally. From this position, Professor Ioan Horga campaigned for institutionalizing at the University of Oradea, and also at nationwide universities (through work in the National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates - CNATDCU and the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - ARACIS) of a field of study in International Relations and

¹ This paper was published in Mircea Brie, Alina Stoica, Florentina Chirodea (coord.), *The European Space Borders and Issues. In Honorem Professor Ioan Horga*, Editura Universității din Oradea/Debrecen University Press, Oradea/Debrecen, 2016, 586 p. 45-65.

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European Studies, and Security Studies. This rich activity of the university management activity is part of a comprehensive process of organizing Romanian university studies in the context of Romania's integration in Euro-Atlantic structures.

Without taking upon highlighting the rich work of Professor Ioan Horga, we would like to emphasize his role in establishing institutional structures that were the basis of outstanding research. The creation of the Department of International Relations and European Studies, a research institutional structure (International Centre for Euroregional Research, then the Institute for Euroregional Studies - Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence) or some specialized journals have created the preconditions for a rich research whose landmark is the scientific expertise of Professor Ioan Horga.

The complex analyses on the European space are crowned with an overview of European realities, with the capacity to see beyond the historical realities of European prospects.

Either that he has taken into account the historical perspective on the European space or he has been preoccupied with the present realities, Professor Ioan Horga's vocation is leading the research, the ability to see both the general and the particular. *Europa Luminilor*², *Europa secolului al XIX-lea*³ or *Relațiile internaționale de la echilibru la sfârșitul concertului european (secolul XVII – începutul secolului XX)*⁴ are works of historical synthesis that come to argue our statements regarding the superior ability of Professor Ioan Horga to understand realities by linking behaviors of contemporary European history to the "actual history"⁵. His European thinking sees and understands the European realities, including historical stands when these writings call for the "democratization of European historiography" which is required to rise above national ones⁶. Besides, Professor Horga noted the need to reform the educational and cultural policies in order to create solidarity and cooperation pillars of the European construction process, namely the creation of a European identity. Complex realities of the process of European construction, successes and difficulties recorded during the stages of this process, and opening eastward toward New Europe, are topics of attention and understanding of this dedicated and devoted researcher. *Construcție Europeană. Tradiție, realitate și perspectivă* (1998) is not only a historic telltale of the process of European construction, but reference is made to a dispute between national versus European. As the Europeanist as I've known him, Professor Ioan Horga advocates for strengthening the European institutions and reminds about "reducing the significance of borders"⁷ prefacing future research in the study of European borders. European institutions, the European Union functionality as a whole, and other international organizations have been subject of his research at both general and particular. Scientific papers are both applied and theoretical, analytic, and synthetic. In this last category, the book *Teoria relațiilor internaționale*⁸ is positioned as a fundamental work of his research.

² Ioan Horga, *Europa luminilor*, Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea, 2002.

³ Idem, *Europa secolului XIX*, Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea, 2000.

⁴ Ioan Horga; Brie M., *Relațiile internaționale de la echilibru la sfârșitul concertului european (secolul XVII – începutul secolului XX)*, Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea, 2006.

⁵ Ioan Horga, *Europa luminilor...*, p. 7.

⁶ Idem, *Europa secolului XIX...*, p. 13-14.

⁷ Idem, *Construcție Europeană. Tradiție, realitate și perspectivă*, Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea, 1998, p. 6.

⁸ Idem, *Teoria relațiilor internaționale*, Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea, 2006.

The process of European enlargement towards the east began after the fall of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe, and remained constant to the core of Professor Horga's research. Two collective volumes, coordinated by Professor Horga, were the center of debate between the contribution of the media⁹ and its relation to the governance¹⁰ in the context of EU enlargement. The purpose is to find solutions for a better governance at both national and sub-national (local, regional) and supranational (European) levels. The European enlargement eastwards brings in his opinion challenges that require political and institutional transformation in national and European decision-making process. Moreover, even in the years before and after the wave of EU accession of Central and Eastern European states in 2004, Ioan Horga anticipates the need for systemic reformation of the European Union in the context of enlargement to the east¹¹. This need is given by the particularities of these countries in the enlargement process¹² or by economic realities¹³, the realities of their cultural heritage and social identity. Romanian historical peculiarities, the specific national context of the accession process and economic realities often serve as case studies. The particular realities of central and eastern Europe led him to invoke European institutional reform based on intercultural dialogue, the need for democratization of decision-making. European Parliament debates regarding European enlargement in the post, the functionality, are among his academic concerns. These include works such as *The European Parliament, Intecultural Dialogue and European Neighborhood Policy*¹⁴ or *Le Parlement Européen et la Démocratisation du Processus Décisionnel Européen*¹⁵. Reforming the European system includes debates regarding *The Multilevel Governance*, which Ioan Horga associated to respecting the principle of subsidiarity¹⁶, regional governance and institutional outlook on the Committee of the

⁹ A. Landuyt, Ioan Horga and R. de La Brosse, *The contributiun of Mass-Media to the Enlargement of EU*, International Institute of Administrative Studies, Bruxelles, 2003.

¹⁰ F. Maron, Ioan Horga and R. de La Brosse, *Media and Governance Facing the Challenge of the EU Enlargement*, International Institute of Administrative Studies, Bruxelles, 2005.

¹¹ Ioan Horga, „The Enlargement of the European Union Increases the Need for New Solutions for European Good Governance. Which is the Place of the Media in this Process”, in F. Maron, I. Horga, R. de La Brosse, *Media and Governance Facing the Challenge of the EU Enlargement*, International Institute of Administrative Studies, Bruxelles, 2005, p. 57-76; Ioan Horga, „General Considerations on European Enlightenment”, in I. Țepelea, C. Antal, *Proceedings of the 27th ARA Congress*, Polytechnic International Press, Oradea, 2003, p. 175-184.

¹² Ioan Horga, „Romanian and its historical peculiarities amongst the newcomers in the European Union”, in A. Landuyt, D. Pasquinucci (ed.), *Gli allamenti della CEE/EU (1961-2004)*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2005, p. 565-592.

¹³ Ioan Horga and L. Șoproni, „Romania's Accession to the European Union. Economic Conditions”, in J. Kundera (ed.), *Economic Relations in the EU Enlarged*, Kolonia Limited, Wrocław, 2007, p. 319-329.

¹⁴ Ioan Horga; G. Silași; I. Suli-Zakar and S. Sagan, *The Parliament European, Intecultural Dialogue and European Neighborhood Policy*, Editura Universitii din Oradea, Oradea, 2009.

¹⁵ Cristina Dogot and Ioan Horga, „Le Parlement Européen et la Démocratisation du Processus Décisionnel Européen”, in *The Romanian Review of European Governance Studies*, 2009, vol. 1, 1, p. 18 – 24.

¹⁶ Ioan Horga, „The Multilevel Governance (MLG) and the Respect of the Subsidiarity Principle”, in I. Horga, I. Suli-Zakar (ed.), *Cross-Border Partnership. Whit special regards to the Hunagrian-Romanian-Ukrainian Tripartite Border*, Editura Universității din Debrecen/Editura Universității din Oradea, Debrecen/Oradea, 2010, p. 169-175.

Regions¹⁷, but also to the needs of institutional and legislative reform after the Treaty of Lisbon in the context of *The White Paper of Multilateral Governance*¹⁸. Lastly, the European enlargement is seen as a geopolitical reality that has imposed a new European agenda, new priorities and interests, both internal and external. The new Member States in line with their new status assume besides interests and preferences “a possible higher interest”¹⁹. The legitimacy of the European enlargement, seen in both its meanings (States and the European Union), is closely linked to the reformation of the EU.

The research of Professor Horga about the European space, the co-operation between organizations, countries or regions, the cooperation at the EU's borders, have as binder research the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the EU external relations took as a starting point the support from the European Neighbourhood Policy, the results of which were noted by the European Commission as positive ever since the early years of its launch in 2003²⁰. “The ENP has strengthened relations with partner countries and brought tangible benefits to both the Union and its partners, including the launch of regional initiatives and support to democratization in the European neighborhood”²¹. Under the influence of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the concept of external border of the European Union tends to acquire new forms of expression. On the one hand we find a flexible contact area between the two sides of the border. Such a tendency is amplified by cross-border cooperation mechanisms, through Euroregions and European instruments successfully implemented at the external border²². On the other hand, the actions of the European Union which is trying to implement regional cohesion policies on its borders today are, according to analysts, proving that the Union is strengthening its external borders, currently taking this into account, at least for now, the variant of a slowdown process of enlargement towards east, without effectively closing doors²³. The

¹⁷ Ioan Horga, „Multilevel Governance (Mlg) and Subsidiary Principle in White Paper of Mlg of the Committee of the Region (CoR)”, in I. Horga, I. Gh. Barbulescu, A. Ivan, M. Palincsak, I. Suli-Zakar (ed.), *Regional and Cohesion Policy – Insights Into the Role of the Partnership Principle in the New Policy Design*, Debrecen University Press & Oradea University Press, Debrecen/Oradea, 2011, p. 158-164

¹⁸ D. Gal and Ioan Horga, „Multilevel Governance from Lisbon Treaty to the White Paper of Multilateral Governance”, in *Revista de Estudios Jurídicos of the University of Jaen*, 2010, nr. 10 (Segunda Época)

¹⁹ Cristina Dogot and Ioan Horga, „Enlargement Process, Classic Geopolitics, and EU Internal Priorities”, in *Eurolimes*, 14/Autumn, 2012, p. 167.

²⁰ See *Communication de la Commission. Une politique européenne de voisinage vigoureuse*, Bruxelles, 05/12/2007, COM(2007) 744 final.

²¹ EUR-Lex, Access to European Union law, *Regulamentul (UE) NR. 232/2014 AL Parlamentului European și al Consiliului din 11 martie 2014 de instituire a unui instrument european de vecinătate*, Jurnalul Oficial al Uniunii Europene, L 77/27, 15.03.2014, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.077.01.0027.01.RON, accessed on 30.11.2016.

²² Iordan Gheorghe Bărbulescu (coord.); Mircea Brie and Nicolae Toderaș, *Cooperarea transfrontalieră între România și Ucraina, respectiv între România și Republica Moldova. Oportunități și provocări între 2014-2020*, Tritonic, București, 2016

²³ In connection to the “orange revolution” in Ukraine, the European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner declared at December 1st, 2004 that „la question de l’Ukraine dans l’UE n’est pas à l’ordre du jour. Mais il est clair que nous ne fermons aucune porte”. See Régis Matuszewicz, *Vers la fin de l’Élargissement?*, in Laurent Beurdeley, Renaud de La Brosse, Fabienne Maron (coord.), *L’Union Européenne et ses espaces de*

proximity area of the European Union was among his concerns before the official launch of ENP. Topics such as the democratization of Central and Eastern Europe were in the research agenda by connection to the role played in this process by the media and new communication technologies and information. Just to remind some of the titles published along with one of his friends, the French Professor Renaud de La Brosse: *Two media threats to democracy in Central and Eastern Oriental*²⁴ or the collective volume *The Role of the Mass-Media and of the New Information and Communication Technologies in the Democratisation Process of Central and Eastern European Societies*²⁵. Romania joined the European Union led to a growing interest for the neighbouring space. In 2007, together with Alla Roșca, published a study about the Republic of Moldova, *La Moldavie tete de pont de l'UE*²⁶, where the complexity of the realities of this region, but also the difficulties in implementing the ENP are analysed. The European Neighbourhood Policy is then approached in relation to Romanian state border with Ukraine²⁷, in relation to inter-university cooperation²⁸, intercultural dialogue²⁹ and contribution to the responsibilities of Romania under this policy³⁰. Reforming the ENP and new EU policies in relation to proximity to the eastern approach find a place in his studies of strategies, opportunities and challenges of the new format of the Eastern Partnership³¹ or analysis regarding the permeability or impermeability of the EU's eastern borders in the context of the Eastern Partnership³².

Regional and Euroregional development remained constant to the attention of Professor Ioan Horga both in the scientific research, and institutional, educational or research management. He created at the University of Oradea, together with colleagues

proximité. Entre stratégie inclusive et partenariats removes: quell avenir pour le nouveau voisinage de l'Union?, Bruxelles, Bruylant, 2007, p. 109.

²⁴ Ioan Horga, R. de La Brosse, „Two media threats to democracy in Central and Eastern Oriental”, in *Democrația în Europa Centrală și de Sud-Est- Aspirație și Realitate (secolele XIX-XX)*, Editura Muzeului Sătmărean, Satu Mare, 2000.

²⁵ Ioan Horga, R. de La Brosse (ed.), *The Role of the Mass-Media and of the New Information and Communication Technologies in the Democratisation Process of Central and Eastern European Societies*, International Institute of Administrative Studies, Bruxelles, 2002.

²⁶ Ioan Horga, A. Roșca, „La Moldavie tete de pont de l'UE”, in R. de la Brosse, L. Beurdelai, F. Maron(ed.), *Quel perspective pour la politique de voisinage de l'UE?*, Bruxelles, Bruyere, 2007, p.164-182.

²⁷ Ioan Horga, „La frontiere roumaino-ukraninienne de la perspective de la politique de voisinage”, in G. Edelstam, T. Lunden (ed.), *European Neighbourhood Policy and Security: Challenges, Goals and Means*, Stockholm, 2008.

²⁸ Ioan Horga; Mircea Brie, „La coopération interuniversitaire aux frontières extérieures de l'Union Européenne et la contribution à la politique européenne de voisinage”, in G. Rouet, P. Terem (coord.), *Elargissement et politique Européenne de voisinage*, Bruylant, Bruxelles, 2008, p. 203-233

²⁹ Ioan Horga; G. Silași; I. Suli-Zakar and S. Sagan, *op. cit.*; Mircea Brie; Ioan Horga and Sorin Șipoș (coord.), *Ethnicity, Confession and Intercultural Dialogue at the European Union's East Border*, Editura Universității din Debrecen/Editura Universității din Oradea, Debrecen/Oradea, 2011.

³⁰ Ioan Horga; A. M. Costea, „Eastern Partnership between the Permeability and Impermeability of EU Eastern Borders”, in C. Pacheco Amaral, G. Gabrichidze, Ioan Horga, A. Kruglashov, E. Latoszek, M. Pachocka, V. Cucerescu, *EU Relations whit Eastern Partnership: Strategy, Opportunities and Challenges*, Print-Caro, Chișinău, 2016.

³¹ M. Pachocka; E. Latoszek; V. Cucerescu; G. Gabrichidze; Ioan Horga; A. Kruglashov and Amaral, C. Pacheco, *EU relations with Eastern Partnership: strategy, opportunities and challenges*, Editura Print-Caro, Chișinău, 2016.

³² Ioan Horga; A. M. Costea, *op. cit.*

from the University of Debrecen, a research center that promotes research in euroregional development, and specialized masters programs which have the euroregional study or the regional development specialization. The Institute for Euroregional Studies (IRES) was formed as a result of both the need for developing an institutional research collaboration, as well as for the recording of the result of anormal rapprochement between the two academic communities. „As for the regional and Euroregional development at the Hungarian-Romanian border there has been a highlight on the role played by smaller or larger town from within the border area in creating development poles. The towns are centres of the economic space of their counties and the value of the inner potential depends on the distance from the county-seat”³³. Regions, including the border (Euroregions) are addressed from the perspective of economic, social and cultural structures in which the integrated development of human resources and mobility take place³⁴. In 2006, Professor Ioan Horga, along with his close collaborator István Suli-Zakar, coordinates two collective volumes analyzing the national and European prospects related to regional development in the Euroregional space, CBC Romanian-Hungarian (*Regional Developpment in the Romanian-Hungarian cross-border space. From national to European perspective*³⁵) and, a second volume (*Challenges and Perspectives in the Regional and Euroregional Issues in the New Europe*), the challenges and the perspectives of regional and Euroregional development in the space of the New Europe³⁶. Administrative territorial reform has been a much discussed topic in the Romanian public space in recent years without finding resolve at the decision-making level. In this debate, Professor Ioan Horga proposed to take into account the realities of cultural and historical heritage, historical regions of functionality that are part of the Romanian state. The historical perspective is important in defining regional structures, it was born of a geographical reality and cultural, economic and social which must be taken into account today. Appeal is made to a debate on regional structures to include reference to both local space, subregional, but also at the national and supranational space³⁷. The historical regional perspective is then associated with a new type of regional approach: „The subject of regionalization is even more pressing if we speak about frontier cities in Romania, because they are influenced by the national level, the regional one and also by the interregional level, given the fact that their border is also the border of the Romanian state and often citizens cross it or the regional authorities develop

³³ Ioan Horga, I. Suli-Zakar, „Contributions of Institute for Euroregional Studies Oradea-Debrecen to Shaping the Border into a Space for knowledge and Development”, in *Analele Universității din Oradea*, Seria Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene, vol. 2, 2010, p. 170-183. Pentru o mai complexă imagine asupra activității desfășurate de IRES vă recomandăm parcurgerea lucrării I. Suli-Zakar, Ioan Horga, A. Ilieș, C.V. Țoca, „Institute for Euroregional Studies - «Jean Monnet» European Center of Excellence”, in I. Suli-Zakar, *Falvainak sorsa es A vasosnovekedes Szakaszi*, Debrecen University Press, Debrecen, 2011, p. 15-45.

³⁴ Ioan Horga, A. Ilieș, O. Dehoorne, „Romania, regional internal and external economical structures integration, development and human mobility”, in *Human Mobility in a Borderless World?*, Societa Geografica Italiana, 2001, p. 117-134

³⁵ I. Suli-Zakar, Ioan Horga, *Regional Developpment in the romanian-hungarian cross-border space. From national to European perspective*, Editura Universității din Debrecen, 2006.

³⁶ Ioan Horga, I. Suli-Zakar, *Challenges and Perspectives in the Regional and Euroregional Issues in the New Europe*, Editura Universității din Debrecen/Editura Universității din Oradea, Debrecen/Oradea, 2006.

³⁷ Ioan Horga, „Romanian perspective on the regional and local structures”, in C. Pacheco Amaral (ed.), *The External Projection of Regional Autonomy in Europe*, L'Harmattan, Paris, 2010.

cooperation projects with other centres from the frontier regions”³⁸. Lastly, regional and Euro-regional development topics in the area of Central and Eastern Europe is associated to the cohesion policy and regional development policies. In 2011, as a coordinator and collaborator, Ioan Horga published the collective volume *Regional and Cohesion Policy – Insights Into the Role of the Partnership Principle in the New Policy Design*³⁹. This, along with other papers regarding the White Paper of the committal of the Region (CoR)⁴⁰, multilevel governance subsidiarity principle, regional policy in Central and Eastern Europe⁴¹, constitute the main core of the thesis proposed in this area, where the state remains an important partner of the European Union⁴².

Cross-border cooperation has proved to be one of the favorite topics, associated to the research of the euroregional border space, which Professor Ioan Horga approached with attention and passion. This research topic is based on the complex analysis of the space frontier, especially of the border between Romania and Hungary, where an emphasis is on the need to build a dialogue, the institutional-legislative levers contributing to the development of cooperation between the two sides of the border. A special role in this process was played by European instruments to stimulate cross-border cooperation. We refer here to the institutional and legislative structures of regional/euroregional European funds for territorial cooperation, especially those targeted specifically by the CBC. Developments marked the transition from the communist period corresponded in large over a period of openness compared to the neighboring space in Central and Eastern Europe. Contained in a Euro-Atlantic integration process, Romania, like other states in this region, responded positively, registering significant progress on the path of dialogue and development cooperation opening its borders with neighboring states allied. Border cooperation relations between Romania and Hungary have benefited from a comprehensive analysis of ten years after the fall of communism⁴³. The emphasis is on the effects of cooperation has in the border area. The actors involved in this process that creates leverage and develop relationships beyond the perspective and the national, regional and local level, in line with the realities and mutual interests are identified and

³⁸ Ioan Horga, A. M. Ghimiș, “The role of the borders in the Romanian regionalization”, in *Transylvanian Review*, ISI Journal, vol. XXIII, Supplement No. 2, 2015, p. 164.

³⁹ Ioan Horga, I. Gh. Barbulescu, A. Ivan, M. Palincsak, I. Suli-Zakar, *Regional and Cohesion Policy – Insights Into the Role of the Partnership Principle in the New Policy Design*, Editura Universității din Debrecen/Editura Universității din Oradea, Debrecen/Oradea, 2011.

⁴⁰ Ioan Horga, „Multilevel Governance (Mlg) and Subsidiary Principle in White Paper of Mlg of the Committee of the Region (CoR)”, in I. Horga, I. Gh. Barbulescu, A. Ivan, M. Palincsak, I. Suli-Zakar (ed.), *Regional and Cohesion Policy – Insights Into the Role of the Partnership Principle in the New Policy Design*, Debrecen University Press & Oradea University Press, Debrecen/Oradea, 2011, p. 158-164.

⁴¹ Idem, „Regional Policy in Central and Eastren Europe”, in *Analele Universitatii din Oradea*, Seria Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene, vol. VI, 2014, p. 7-22; Ioan Horga, A.-M. Costea, „The Regional Policy in the EUMS from Central and Eastern Europe between Decentralisation and Recentralisation”, in *Debater a Europa*, nr. 12, janeiro/junho, 2015, p. 103-134.

⁴² Idem, „The State remained the most important partner of the European Union in the field of regional policy in Central and Eastern Europe”, in E. Latoszek, M. Proczek, A. Klos, M. Pachocka, E. Osuch-Rak (ed.), *Facing the Challenges in European Union. Re-thinking of EU Education and Research for Smart and Inclusive Growth*, EuInteg, Warsaw, 2015.

⁴³ Idem, „Co-operation and effects on borderlands Romania-Hungary in the ten years after communism fall”, in The 7 Geopolitical conference’s act *Changing role of border areas and regional politics*, Lodz, 2000, p. 89-98.

analyzed by Ioan Horga in 2005⁴⁴. Together with Professor István Süli- Zakar at the University of Debrecen, edit the collective volume in 2010, *Cross-Border Partnership. Whit special regards to the Hunagrian-Romanian-Ukrainian Tripartite Border*⁴⁵ „which contains case studies and complex analytical refences. References to the Romanian-Ukrainian border were on the research agenda of Professor Horga on other occasions. In 2009 he published a paper on European instruments of Romanian-Ukrainian border cooperation⁴⁶. Special attention is given in recent years by Professor Ioan Horga to the evaluation border cooperation. In 2013 he coordinates the evaluation volume *Evaluarea cooperării transfrontaliere la frontierele României*⁴⁷, with public and material valorisation of scientific research regarding the evaluation of CBC programs⁴⁸. He advocates for the institutionalization of public policies and programs evaluation at European (and national) level to implement appropriate practices and to act in the public expertise in evaluation. Academia is required to be involved in the evaluation process that contribute to the development of public policies and programs throughout their implementation. On-going assessment turns out to be from this point of view a tool that can be a natural adjustment imposed by the realities recorded in the runningprocess⁴⁹.

Studying various types of borders by Professor Ioan Horga conferred to the city of Oradea and to the University of Oradea, through the Euroregional Studies Institute, a privileged place in this niche area not only nationally but also internationally. A successful project initiated and coordinated by Ioan Horga was and remains the *Eurolimes* journal. It is a journal that, through 20 issues published so far, constitutes a genuine epistemological collection relating to borders. Each issue is a consistent attempt to reflect an “image”, a facet of the rich typology of the border. This project is presented in the study *Why Eurolimes?* in the first issue. „Nowadays, to dedicate a journal to the issue of the borders in Europe – as *Eurolimes* is – seems to be an outdated question from both the point of view of process of the European integration, or the enlargement, and from the point de view of the expectations of the Europeans, who wish to circulate, work and live wherever they want to. But the issue of the border is much more complex than we assume from the viewpoint of its essence and of the different experiences of Europe as a whole ... This “border” scepticism envisages the complexity of the interpretation given to the notion of border and its evolution in the context of the present-day phenomena of globalization and integration”⁵⁰. In 2010, five years after the first issue, in the study *Eurolimes, where to?*,

⁴⁴ Idem, „The actors of Cross-Border Cooperation on the Romanian-Hungarian Border”, in *Acta Geographica Debrecenensis*, vol. XLVII, 2005, p. 244-265.

⁴⁵ Ioan Horga, I. Suli-Zakar (ed.), *Cross-Border Partnership. Whit special regards to the Hunagrian-Romanian-Ukrainian Tripartite Border*, Editura Universității din Debrecen/Editura Universității din Oradea, Debrecen/Oradea, 2010.

⁴⁶ M. Brie, Ioan Horga, „The Romanian-Ukrainian Cross-Border Cooperation an The European Instruments”, in A. Kruglasov (ed.), *Ucraina- Romania- Moldova: aspecte istorice, politice si culturale ale relatiilor în contextul proceselor europene contemporane*, vol. 3, Cernăuți, 2009, p. 302-318

⁴⁷ Ioan Horga, C. V. Țoca, F. Chirodea, *Evaluarea cooperării transfrontaliere la frontierele României*, Primus, Oradea, 2013.

⁴⁸ Idem, „Valorizarea cercetării științifice din mediul academic pentru evaluarea on-going. Evaluarea programelor de cooperare teritorială / transfrontalieră”, in I. Horga, C. V. Țoca, F.Chirodea, *Evaluarea cooperării transfrontaliere la frontierele României*, Primus, Oradea, 2013.

⁴⁹ A se vedea Ioan Horga, „Evaluarea on-going a Programului de Cooperare Transfrontalieră Ungaria-Romania (2007-2013)”, in I. Horga, C. V. Țoca (ed.), *Evaluarea cooperării teritoriale europene*, Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea, 2013.

⁵⁰ Ioan Horga, „Why Eurolimes?”, in *Eurolimes*, nr. 1, 2006, p. 5.

Ioan Horga shows confidence in his interest shown towards this project: „Eurolimes will show an open interest”⁵¹. After ten years and twenty published issues he tries to redefine the essence and purpose of this project. *Still Eurolimes?*, the study opening issue no. 20, introduces us to the universe a mature project, which sits on a solid foundation and that rethinks the light of new realities.. “Eurolimes will remain an active platform for reflection on the European borders, in general, and on the EU’s borders, in particular, aiming to respond, rapidly, with knowledge products, to the fast changes of the European society. On the other side, Eurolimes, although is has been forced by the recent years’ realities to nuance its opinions regarding the future of the European borders, it strongly reaffirms that the EU will exist as long as it will have osmotic borders, that for very short periods of time can become closed, for needed adjustments, as it happened in the fall of 2015, under the pressure of the refugees’ wave. But the European Union will be forced to find solutions in order to keep its borders permanently open, in a space Eurolimes – type, appealing for this, among others, to the electronic surveillance of the traffic at its borders and even within it.”⁵². In *Eurolimes*, but also in various other publications, Professor Horga runs a series of conceptual analyses regarding the border. Under this category fall studies like: *Europe from Exclusive Borders to Inclusive Frontiers* (2007)⁵³; *The New EU Borders: the historical and culturale Heritage* (2007)⁵⁴; *The European Union External Border. An Epistemological Approach* (2009)⁵⁵; *Europe: A Cultural Border, or a Geo-cultural Archipelago* (2010)⁵⁶; *Europe between Exclusive Border and Inclusive Frontiers* (2010)⁵⁷; *Europe: Internal Cultural Frontiers or Union Cultural Area* (2010)⁵⁸; *The European Union External Border. A Conceptual Analysis* (2010)⁵⁹ or *Le frontiere europeee – espressioni dell’identità* (2014)⁶⁰. “According to the same pattern, the *Eurolimes* paradigm designs, according to several researchers in the field, what we understand by “inclusive frontier”⁶¹, that is, the borders to which the European construction tends. The

⁵¹ Idem, „Eurolimes, where to?” in *Eurolimes*, nr. 10/Autumn, 2010, p. 5-16.

⁵² Ioan Horga, I. Suli-Zakar, „Still Eurolimes?”, in *Eurolimes*, nr. 20/Autumn, 2015, p. 18-19.

⁵³ Ioan Horga, D. Pantea, „Europe from Exclusive Borders to Inclusive Frontiers”, in *Eurolimes*, nr. 4/Autumn, 2007, p. 5-10.

⁵⁴ Ioan Horga, S. Şipoş, „The New EU Borders: the historical and culturale Heritage”, in *Actas del VIII Congreso „Cultura Europea”*, Pamplona, 2007, p. 545-557.

⁵⁵ Ioan Horga, M. Brie, „The European Union External Border. An Epistemological Approach”, in *Revista Română de Geografie Politică*, anul XI, nr. 1/2009, p. 15-31.

⁵⁶ Ioan Horga, Mircea Brie, „Europe: A Cultural Border, or a Geo-cultural Archipelago”, in *Eurolimes*, vol. 5/Spring, 2010, p. 155-169.

⁵⁷ Ioan Horga, M. Brie, „Europe between Exclusiv Border and Inclusiv Frontiers”, in *Studia Universitatis „Babes-Bolyai”*, Seria Europeea, vol.1/2010, p. 63-86.

⁵⁸ M. Brie, Ioan Horga, „Europe: Internal Cultural Frontiers or Union Cultural Area”, in *Moldoscopia*, nr. 3 (L), 2010, p. 123-143.

⁵⁹ M. Brie, Ioan Horga, „The European Union External Border. A Conceptual Analysis”, in A. Kruglasov (ed.), *Ukraine – Romania - Moldova; Historical, political and cultural aspects of their relations in the contemporary European processes context*, vol. 4, Chernivtsi, 2010, p. 204- 227.

⁶⁰ Ioan Horga, M. Brie, *Le frontiere europeee – espressioni dell’identità*, in *Transylvanian Review*, ISI Journal, vol. XXIII, supliment nr.1, p. 202-216.

⁶¹ Kalypso Nicolaidis, *Les fins de l’Europe*, in Bronislaw Geremek & Robert Picht (ed.), *Visions d’Europe*, Odile Jacob, Paris, 2007, p. 275-290; Jan Zielonka, *Europe Unbund: Enlarging and Reshaping the Boundaries of the European Union*, London, Routledge, 2002; Idem, *Europe as Empire*, Oxford University Press, 2006; Geremek, Bronislaw, Picht, Robert, *Visions d’Europe*, Paris, Odile Jacob, 2007.

main idea of the integration process is not to settle barriers, but to attenuate them. From this perspective, internal borders become more and more *inclusive* and less visible. Security and border traffic control are transferred to external borders that become more and more *exclusive*, more restrictive if we respect the logic above. Such a theory is valid up to a point. Internal borders do not simply become more open, more *inclusive*⁶²; there is an integration process taking place in steps. On the other hand, we cannot consider as fully equal good and *inclusive/open*, or bad and *exclusive/close*. A simple example can confirm our hypothesis: in war areas, borders are relatively open to refugees⁶³. However, we cannot conclude that we have an *inclusive* border “open just for pleasure” like European borders to which community integration tends as a model.⁶⁴ In general, the concept of border is associated with the *hard* physical border, a concept related to the barrier that can be crossed provided certain special conditions and requirements (visa to enter that country is the best example of a restrictive requirement in the case of *hard* border). On the other hand, a state can have *hard* borders with a neighbouring country, while having *soft*, open borders with another neighbouring country. A border can be both *hard* and *soft* at the same time. A state can eliminate visas for the citizens of a state while strengthening and reinforcing requirements in border control⁶⁵. In the European Union, community institutions suggest that Member States should have *hard* external borders and *soft* internal borders. Besides, several authors consider that *hard*, *exclusive*, *close*, *sharp-edges* or *barrier* are equal. They are all associated with restrictions and strict control being characterised by the numerous conditions imposed to those intending to cross them. On the other hand, *soft*, *open*, *inclusive*, *porous*, *communicative* or *bridge* type borders remove transit restrictions by rendering traffic more flexible⁶⁶. From another perspective, Charles Maier identifies three possible conceptual approaches of the border⁶⁷: the first, „*positive and constructive*”, considered as a border providing political order and good neighbouring relationships; the second, „*negative and revolutionary*”, seen as an illogical obstacle against normality, peace and unity; and the third approach, „*dialectical and evolutionary*”, characterized by the dissolution of a border and the inevitable settling of another, yet not necessarily at the same level of formality⁶⁸. For a long time, the concept of border has developed as an “intolerance axis” of nationalism and racism, of neighbours’ rejection⁶⁹. Beyond physical border, irrespective of the analysed conceptual approach, either within or outside the European Union border, we identify other types of “borders”. We consider these borders as symbolic and ideological considering that, more often than not, they are not palpable. From Europeanism to nationalism, from ethno-religious identities to social chasms, the wide range of approaches on symbolic and ideological borders may continue in the context of a new fight against terrorism or of the implementation of an effective European

⁶² Gerard Delanty, *Border in Changing Europe: Dynamics of Openness and Closure*, in *Eurotimes*, vol. I, *Europe and Its Borders: Historical Perspective*, ed. Ioan Horga, Sorin Şipoş, Institutul de Studii Euroregionale, Oradea, 2006, p. 51.

⁶³ *Ibidem*, p. 50.

⁶⁴ Ioan Horga, M. Brie, „Europe between Exclusiv Border and Inclusiv Frontiers...”, p. 69.

⁶⁵ See Olga Potemkina, A „*Friendly Schengen Border*” and *Illegal Migration: The Case of the EU and its Direct Neighbourhood*, in Joan DeBardleben (ed.), *Soft or Hard Borders? Managing the Divide in an Enlarged Europe*, Ashgate, Hampshire, 2005, p. 165-182.

⁶⁶ *Ibidem*

⁶⁷ Charles S. Maier, *Does Europe Need a Frontier? From Territorial to Redistributive Community*, in Jan Zilonka (ed.), *Europe Unbound: Enlarging and Reshaping the Governance and European Union*, Routledge, London, New York, 2002, pp 41-43.

⁶⁸ Horga, M. Brie, „The European Union External Border. An Epistemological Approach...”, p. 7.

⁶⁹ Gabriel Wackermann, *Les frontières dans monde en mouvement*, Ellipses, Paris, 2003, p. 28.

neighbourhood policy. The physical border at the external limit of the European Union may “open” in time. Yet other types of borders may exist between people and communities. For instance, immigrants live within the European Union; by preserving their identity, they can create a world that “refuses integration” due to the particularities they develop. Thus, we can identify a split that may take the form of a symbolic cultural border sometimes even turning into an “external” border⁷⁰. In addition to these works of conceptual and epistemological theoretical analysis about the European borders, Professor Ioan Horga runs analytical analyses on many kinds of borders as case studies. The approaches are, on the one hand, references to the evolution of relations between states / regions in the border area seen by analogy compared to historical realities. Historical and cultural heritage form a substrate that give special meaning to border areas, to the border directly⁷¹. The media played an important role in the democratization of societies in Central and Eastern Europe, and made its contribution to the transformation of border areas, in the sense/meaning that borders have⁷². The religious dimension of the border, where the border separate communities, ideas and religious currents, is analyzed and noticed as a peculiar reality of the area of Central and Southeast⁷³. It is a region where ethnic-national identities often are accompanied by distinct religious identities. Historical perspective provides a picture of European cleavages in this area. Often overlapping ethno-national cleavages with the religious ones led to tensions and conflicts, which not infrequently have become a form of violent expression (as is the case of the Balkan area, recognized by periods of decay and violence, generated quite often by this overlap of religious frontiers than other types of borders - ethnic, linguistic, cultural, etc.). This perspective is added by the references of the cultural frontiers⁷⁴ and identity frontiers⁷⁵. The economic frontiers⁷⁶ or the urban-community frontiers⁷⁷ are often placed against a complex approach

⁷⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 7-8.

⁷¹ Ioan Horga, S. Şipoş, „The New EU Borders...”, p. 545-557. Ioan Horga, S. Şipoş and I. Suli-Zakar, *Europe and Its Borders: Historical Perspective*, Editura Universităţii din Oradea, Oradea, 2006.

⁷² Ioan Horga, „The role of Media in Changing the Meaning of the Borders”, in *Eurolimes*, nr. 3/Spring, 2007, p. 28-46; Ioan Horga, L. Şoproni, „The role of media in transforming the sense of borders of the World: The European Experience”, in P. Dobrescu, A. Ţăranu, A. Bărgăoanu (ed.), *Globalization and Policies of Development*, Editura Comunicare.ro, Bucureşti, 2007, p. 293-301; Ioan Horga, „Media, Identity and the Meaning of the European Frontier”, in D. Rolland, A. Landuyt (ed.), *Historiographies, politiques et territoires: la construction de l'espace politique européen*, l'Harmattan, Paris, 2010.

⁷³ Ioan Horga, S. Şipoş, „Considérations sur les frontières religieuses de l'Europe Centrale et de Sud-Est”, in *Eurolimes*, nr. 5, 2009, p. 5-13.

⁷⁴ Ioan Horga, Mircea Brie, „Europe: A Cultural Border...”; M. Brie, Ioan Horga, „Europe: Internal Cultural Frontiers...”; M. Brie, Ioan Horga, „Le frontiere culturali europee: tra l'identità dello spazio europeo e le politiche comunitarie”, in S. Şipoş, G. Moisa, M. Brie, F. Sfrengeu, I. Gumenăi (coord.), *The Historian's Atelier. Sources, Methods, Interpretations*, Academia Română, Centrul de Studii Transilvane, Cluj-Napoca, 2012, p. 107-126.

⁷⁵ Ioan Horga, M. Brie, *Le frontiere europees – espressioni dell'identità...*, p. 202-216.

⁷⁶ L. Şoproni, Ioan Horga, „The Economic Frontiers of Europe”, p. 5-6, in *Eurolimes*, Vol. 8/Autumn, 2009, p. 5-6.

⁷⁷ Ioan Horga, A.-M. Costea, „The Regional Policy in the EUMS from Central and Eastern Europe between Decentralisation and Recentralisation”, in *Debater a Europa*, nr. 12, janeiro/junho, 2015, p. 103-134.

which contains both the image of a space for communication, and of a space of fragmentation and cleavages⁷⁸.

In conclusion, we note the rich scientific activity of Professor Ioan Horga by his openness towards themes less addressed in national and international literature, and by the methodological contribution that his work brings. His references to the evolution of relations between states / regions in the border area are landmarks in the scientific area of European Studies and, moreover, International Relations or Security Studies.

Being a historian at core, he has been finding meaning in the historical and cultural heritage which together form a substrate that give special meaning to border areas. In view of the above, the research infrastructure that he has created led to the diversification of approaches regarding the European space in general and the border space in particular. Professor Ioan Horga managed through a wide openness to interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary, to give his research a complex perspective and anecessary understanding of phenomena and processes current in the Europe of today.

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⁷⁸ See Ioan Horga, „Forms of Fragmentation or the European “Border Anxiety”?” in *Eurolimes* 20/Autumn, 2015, p. 108-123.

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