

## **PUBLIC POLICIES, GOVERNANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSION. EDITORIAL AND INTRODUCTORY STUDY**

*Mircea BRIE\**

**Abstract.** *This paper is an introductory and editorial approach to an issue of a journal published under the aegis of the EuroINCLUS Research Center within the Department of International Relations and European Studies, University of Oradea. The aim of this editorial project is to contribute to national and international academic debates in international relations and European studies, by publishing theoretical and empirical analyzes with a vast array of topics, but prioritizing articles on current debates and interdisciplinary analyses.*

*The collection of articles in this volume brings together the papers selected through the peer review process to be included in issue XVIII of the journal the Annals of University of Oradea, Series International Relations and European Studies. In addition to this editorial and introductory study, the volume includes 17 theoretical and applied papers on specific fields. In addition to these, 3 book reviews are added. The articles have been grouped thematically into three sections: 1. International Relations and Governance; 2. Identity, Education and Inclusivity; 3. Public Policies. Development and Socio-Economic Realities.*

**Keywords:** *international relation, public policies, governance, development, identity, inclusion*

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## L'INITIATIVE « UNE CEINTURE, UNE ROUTE » COMME MÉCANISME DE RENFORCEMENT DE LA COOPÉRATION MULTILATÉRALE

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**Résumé.** L'initiative « Ceinture et Route », lancée en 2013 par le président Xi Jinping et s'étalant sur plus d'une décennie, représente le plus grand projet d'infrastructure depuis le plan Marshall, avec un impact sans précédent dans l'histoire moderne.

L'article « L'initiative « une ceinture, une route » comme mécanisme de renforcement de la coopération multilatérale » examine les mécanismes par lesquels la BRI facilite la connectivité transrégionale, favorise l'investissement et harmonise les politiques, contribuant ainsi à la création d'un vaste cadre d'interdépendance économique. À travers l'analyse de données sur les infrastructures, le commerce et les partenariats institutionnels, cette recherche met en lumière comment les projets de la BRI stimulent l'intégration économique et diversifient les routes commerciales. L'article explore également l'impact de l'initiative sur la gouvernance mondiale et son potentiel pour renforcer le dialogue entre États aux niveaux de développement variés. Par ailleurs, la BRI agit comme un catalyseur de la coopération multilatérale, offrant des perspectives de croissance tout en posant des défis en matière de transparence et de durabilité, qui exigent une approche coordonnée entre les acteurs internationaux.

**Keywords:** Initiative, coopération, développement, investissement, infrastructure, Chine

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## HEGEMONY AT AN INFLECTION POINT: U.S. AND THE CRISIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

*Adrian – Ionuț BOGDAN\**

**Abstract.** *The current international system is defined by overlapping crises that strain global institutions and test the adaptability of U.S. leadership. The frameworks of the Perfect Storm, the Crises' Decade, and the Permacrisis provide valuable analytical tools to interpret this turbulence, capturing the interplay between short-term shocks, medium-term cycles of disruption, and long-term systemic fragility. This article employs a qualitative methodology, combining case-based analysis of contemporary conflicts, official policy documents, and scholarly literature to assess U.S. strategic responses under the Trump 2.0 Administration. The goal is not only to diagnose the vulnerabilities of the liberal international order but also to identify potential trajectories for U.S. power in a world marked by revisionism, economically rivalry, and democratic uncertainty.*

**Keywords:** *Perfect Storm; Crises' Decade; Permacrisis; U.S. foreign policy and international order.*

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## ANALYSIS OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN ROMANIA<sup>1</sup>

*Laurențiu PETRILA\**  
*Felix-Angel POPESCU\*\**  
*Ana Maria COATU\*\*\**

**Abstract.** *The analysis of the electoral promises formulated in the 2012 campaign reveals a remarkable convergence towards a few dominant themes that reflect both the structural deficiencies of regional development in Romania and the politicians' perception of the electorate's expectations. The result was, almost invariably, the transition of these commitments to the register of promises without consequences, with a high reputational cost and with the side effect of disturbing the rational prioritization of budgets. Beyond individual failures and cases of corruption, the analysis reveals deep systemic problems. that transcend political affiliation or regional specifics.*

**Keywords:** *local, governance, electoral, promises, county, councils, Romania.*

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## ETHICAL GOVERNANCE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

Marco MARSILI\*

**Abstract.** *This paper examines the ethical and political implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance, with a focus on the Western Balkans in the broader context of European integration and democratic transformation. AI technologies increasingly shape decision-making, policy implementation, and public discourse, offering opportunities for efficiency, transparency, and citizen participation. Yet they also raise significant risks of surveillance, algorithmic bias, and reduced accountability, particularly in regions facing fragile democratic institutions, ethnic diversity, and complex security challenges. Drawing on political philosophy, ethical theory, and contemporary debates in digital governance, this study develops a normative framework for ethical AI adoption grounded in democratic values and human rights. Empirical references to governance practices in the Western Balkans, alongside comparative insights from Central and Eastern Europe, highlight both regional vulnerabilities and potential pathways for responsible AI integration. The paper argues for cross-border cooperation, civil society involvement, and policy harmonization with EU standards as essential conditions for building ethical AI governance. By addressing both risks and opportunities, it contributes to debates on democratization, security management, and the role of emerging technologies in shaping the future of governance.*

**Keywords:** *Artificial Intelligence; Ethical Governance; Western Balkans; Democratization; European Integration*

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## THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES TO THE PHENOMENON OF NEW REGIONALISM

*Svetlana CEBOTARI\**  
*Selena STEJARU\*\**

**Abstract.** *The phenomenon of "new regionalism" represents a contemporary trend in the analysis of international relations and territorial development, emerging in the context of global transformations after the end of the Cold War. Unlike "old regionalism," which was mainly focused on formal economic integration between states, new regionalism is multidimensional, encompassing economic, political, cultural, social, and security aspects. It is no longer solely state-driven, but also involves non-state actors such as NGOs, local authorities, and subnational regions.*

*In theoretical perspective, new regionalism is analyzed through various paradigms—from neoliberalism to constructivism—that highlight growing interdependencies and the fragmentation of the traditional international order. The process is influenced by globalization, which does not diminish the importance of regions but rather reconfigures them as strategic actors in global networks. A "bottom-up" orientation is observed in the formation of regional identities and interests, with emphasis on complementarity and interregional cooperation.*

*New regionalism is often perceived as a form of alternative governance, adaptable to local contexts yet connected to global dynamics. Therefore, it provides a relevant theoretical and practical framework for understanding the new forms of regional organization in a multipolar and complex world.*

**Keywords:** *region, regionalization, new regionalism, international relations*

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## THE GERMAN MINORITY AND THE ROMANIAN DIASPORA IN ROMANIAN-GERMAN CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Natalia ANDONE\*

***Abstract.** This article examines the role of the German minority in Romania and the Romanian diaspora in Germany in shaping Romanian–German cultural diplomacy. It integrates the analysis of these two communities within a common framework of societal cultural diplomacy, emphasizing the contribution of non-state actors to the consolidation of bilateral dialogue. Drawing on a qualitative methodology that combines documentary analysis with cultural discourse analysis, the study explores how transnational cultural capital, collective memory, and civic networks are mobilized within the relationship between the two national contexts. The comparative findings indicate that the German minority operates primarily through institutional continuity, heritage preservation, and educational infrastructure, whereas the Romanian diaspora acts through mobility, associative structures, and contextual adaptability. The article advances the concept of “community soft power” to capture forms of symbolic influence generated at the societal level and underscores the complementarity of these modes of action in sustaining the stability of Romanian–German cultural relations.*

***Keywords:** Cultural diplomacy, community soft power, transnational cultural capital, Romanian–German relations*

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## EUROPEANIZATION IN SEGREGATED SCHOOLS? THIRD PARTIES' EFFORTS TO BUILD A TRANS-ETHNIC EDUCATIONAL SPACE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

*Georgiana-Diana HOROBEANU\**  
*Miruna BUTNARU-TRONCOTĂ\*\**

**Abstract.** *Bosnia and Herzegovina's European integration has been marked by persistent stagnation, particularly in education, where ethnic segregation endures despite decades of reforms and external support. Most analyses approach reconciliation from a top-down perspective, focusing on constitutional reform and EU conditionality, yet this overlooks the everyday realities of divided schooling. This article addresses that gap by examining reconciliation from a bottom-up perspective, by examining third-party efforts to build trans-ethnic educational spaces in post-conflict societies.*

*The research adopts a qualitative case study design, triangulating European Commission progress reports (2018–2024), IPA funding allocations, and NGO project documentation. This approach investigates how EU support intersects with local agency and whether participatory practices foster sustainable change in a segregated educational landscape.*

*Findings show that while national reforms remain blocked, micro-level initiatives yield tangible improvements in interethnic cooperation, with some schools integrating inclusive models into curricula. These outcomes highlight the potential of participatory education projects to complement stalled macro-level reforms and illustrate how bottom-up approaches can plant the seeds of a trans-ethnic social fabric, offering both local benefits and pathways for Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU accession.*

**Keywords:** *participatory approach, peacebuilding, reconciliation, NGO sector.*

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## THE EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL LANGUAGE IN THE DIGITAL AGE. LINGUISTIC TENDENCIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LEGITIMACY OF POWER

*Simona Camelia FER\**

**Abstract.** *This study examines the evolution of political discourse in digital environments, focusing on the strategies through which political actors articulate power relations and legitimacy. Guided by theoretical and qualitative approaches, including critical discourse analysis and cognitive linguistics, the research investigates four interrelated dimensions of digital political communication: lexical networks and semantic polarization, pronominal usage and the formation of in-group versus out-group identities, metaphorical strategies and the amplification of emotional appeal, and moral binaries and the simplification of political discourse. Findings indicate that digital platforms facilitate rapid dissemination of messages and also amplify ideological polarization and emotional engagement, creating iterative cycles that support group cohesion and marginalize dissenting voices. Metaphors, pronouns, moral framing and selective lexical choices function as powerful tools for persuasion, structuring both cognition and affect, and influencing public perception in ways that sustain political authority and social hierarchies. By integrating classical and contemporary scholarship, this study highlights the complex interplay between language, technology and political power in the digital age, demonstrating that online discourse is highly dynamic and, at the same time, deeply influential in presenting public opinion and political identities.*

**Keywords:** *digital political discourse, critical discourse analysis, lexical polarization, pronominal strategies, metaphor and emotion, moral binaries*

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## **SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EUROPEAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY: THE CASE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN RURAL BIHOR COUNTY**

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*Mircea BRIE\*\**

**Abstract.** *Rural areas in Romania face structural vulnerabilities stemming from geographical isolation and limited economic activity, factors that restrict access to sustainable employment opportunities. However, the potential of the private sector and the synergy among local actors are essential drivers of social inclusion, with the rate of job creation serving as the benchmark for the success of development policies. Through Pillar II of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Union has sought to establish a strategic framework aimed at diversifying the rural economy by stimulating non-agricultural activities. However, the absence of a long-term strategic vision has limited the effectiveness of the social inclusion process; although economic diversification is an imperative necessity for rural entrepreneurs and residents, the fragmented implementation of this concept has hindered the achievement of the intended cohesion objectives.*

*This study aims to analyze the contribution of non-agricultural activities to labor market dynamics in rural areas, while also examining the spillover effects on the local entrepreneurial ecosystem, particularly in the tourism sector. The research focuses on the administrative-territorial units of Așeu, Vadu Crișului, Șuncuius, and Bratca (Bihor County), localities located within a tourist area defined in part by the Crișul Repede Gorge protected natural area. The theoretical and empirical foundation of this study is based on the analysis of data from official statistics (European, national, and local), government documents, as well as a rigorous review of the specialized literature, including doctoral dissertations and relevant scientific articles.*

**Keywords:** *rural development, social inclusion, tourism, Romania, Bihor.*

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## THE ROLE OF BORDER MANAGEMENT IN THE PROCESS OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AT THE EU'S SOUTH EASTERN BORDERS

István **POLGÁR**\*

**Abstract.** *The issue of migration goes beyond geographical, economic and legal approaches. If we intend to treat the phenomenon from a specific point of view, we will find ambiguities and uncertainties regarding the role of states and the functioning of some institutions in the process of migration management.*

*The European Union's South Eastern border region, and bordering countries are representing a so-called epicenter of the migration process. Basically, it is one of the main migration routes, also called the Western Balkan track, used by thousands of migrants and refugees on their way to the EU member states.*

*Managing borders and the migration management in the EU and in the neighboring countries is a social and economic investment that enables societies to strengthen their cohesion and resilience and become more prosperous. It can be considered also a societal process in which the responsibility does not rest with a specific group, but with several. The study aims to realize an inventory of the general trends and evolutions from the past decade, regarding the perception of the border in the South East European space, but also focuses on the process of migration management which had an impact on transnational institution building.*

*One of our research hypotheses is represented by the fact that cooperation between states in the field of border management play an important role in the process of migrant management. Transnational cooperation and partnerships between institutions can carry out valuable work by providing guidance and support in this process.*

*A second hypothesis that we want to test starts from the idea that the creation of certain transnational institutions in the field of migration management, working on the ground can play a more efficient role in monitoring the implementation and the impact of new policies and initiatives.*

*The present research is intended to be an analysis through which we would like to emphasize the lack of interaction between neighboring states border authorities at different levels in migration management at the South Eastern borders of the European Union.*

**Keywords:** *border, migration, cooperation, Western Balkans, transnational.*

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# ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORKS IN TOCHIGI PREFECTURE DURING THE MEIJI PERIOD: UNRAVELING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DISPARITIES FROM HUMAN CONNECTIONS

*Yu TSUCHIYA\**

*Nobumichi WATAHIKI\*\**

*Cristian VLAD\*\*\**

***Abstract.** As the world strives to reach new realms in sustainability, education and innovation, the topics of geopolitics, social impact and regional entrepreneurship have attracted attention globally, both in corporate and academic environments. This paper further explores these topics, while describing how some of these key elements have contributed to spatial economics, innovation, leadership and social impact in a Japanese organization.*

***Keywords:** Social, Impact, Entrepreneurship, Japan, Geopolitics, Sustainability, Strategy*

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## HEALTH RISK MANAGEMENT FOR THE SAFETY OF FESTIVAL TOURISM

*Tamás SUSZTER\**

**Abstract:** *This research, conducted at the Doctoral School of Police Sciences and Law Enforcement (Ludovika University of Public Service), investigates the law enforcement dimensions of festival tourism safety. It identifies health protocols as critical determinants in the security framework of large-scale events. Objective: the study evaluates Hungarian regulatory environments and operational health safety standards, exploring the correlation between medical security and event safety through empirical examples. A multi-methodological approach was employed, including a review of Hungarian and international literature and legal frameworks. Qualitative insights were gathered through interviews with Árpád Zimányi (OZORA Festival organizer) and a festival attendee, supplemented by a quantitative survey on public safety perceptions. Results: Findings indicate that health safety is a cornerstone of festival security; inadequate provision correlates with declining regional attractiveness. Subjective safety is significantly dictated by the visibility and efficiency of medical services.*

*The study introduces the concept of "cooperative safety," integrating statutory regulations with organizational intent and private providers. It concludes that implementing health protocols exceeding regulatory requirements is not merely a compliance issue but a fundamental strategic interest for organizers.*

**Keywords:** *tourism safety, festival tourism, law enforcement, health security, medical risk management, cooperative safety.*

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## TRANSFORMING THE BRAIN DRAIN INTO TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TO STRENGTHEN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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*Anisa GRADAŠČEVIĆ\*\**  
*Mirza POJSKIĆ\*\*\**

**Abstract.** *In addition to the introduction (first part) and concluding remarks (last part), the article consists of three parts. In the second part, the authors elaborate on the complex political system that governs healthcare. The strengths and weaknesses of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian healthcare system are analyzed, with a focus on brain drain in medicine, in the next part of the article. In the fourth part, the authors illustrate the human capital crisis in the context of brain drain with a specific focus on how brain drain can be converted into the transfer of knowledge and technology. For this purpose, as an example of good practice, the authors used a case study analysis of the BHĀG E.V. Association. In the concluding remarks, the authors reflect on the research's limitations and emphasize how the process can be improved with the recommendations.*

**Keywords:** *healthcare, brain drain, transfer of knowledge, transfer of technology, investments.*

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## THE FUTURE OF GREEN INDUSTRIAL POLICY: AN OVERVIEW OF POLICY COMMUNICATION

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*Cristina-Matilda VĂNOAGĂ\*\**

**Abstract.** *The Green Industrial Policy has become a key element of contemporary economic and environmental governance, aiming to reconcile industrial competitiveness with climate neutrality and sustainable development. As governments increasingly adopt such strategies, policy communication plays an important role in shaping their formulation, implementation and public legitimisation. This paper examines the evolution of the European Union's institutional discourse on industrial policy between 2021 and 2025 by analysing three major policy documents: the updated Industrial Strategy (2021), the Green Deal Industrial Plan (2023), and the Clean Industrial Deal (2025). Using a qualitative research strategy based on document and discourse analysis, the study investigates shifts in institutional narratives and the transformation of key concepts. The findings indicate that EU institutional discourse reflects political priorities while functioning as a strategic instrument for adapting legitimacy in response to economic and geopolitical constraints.*

**Keywords:** *European Green Deal, green industrial policy, net-zero, transition, political communication.*

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## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRIAL AGGLOMERATIONS IN THE CHŪBU REGION DURING THE MEIJI PERIOD. A QUANTITATIVE EXAMINATION THROUGH NETWORK AND STATISTICAL ANALYSES

*Masamichi TAKAGI\**  
*Nobumichi WATAHIKI\*\**  
*Luiza GATAN\*\*\**  
*Cristian VLAD\*\*\*\**

**Abstract.** *This study seeks to elucidate the developmental disparities between Hamamatsu City and Yokkaichi City—both regional industrial centres and clusters that prospered during the Meiji period—by comparing the structural and statistical characteristics of their entrepreneurial networks.*

*The significance of this research lies in its comparative examination of the divergent developmental trajectories of individual cities within Japan's industrial clusters, employing historical data and network analysis methodologies. As Robinson (2014) highlights, a central challenge in inter-city comparative studies is the effective “tracking and visualising of the diverse connections between cities,” and this study seeks to address this challenge directly. Specifically, by focusing on Japanese industrial cities that evolved organically, rather than planned industrial districts as examined in Lewis's (2004) study of Chicago, this research aims to elucidate the heterogeneous patterns of urban industrial development.*

**Keywords:** *Culture, Leadership, Japan, Networks, Influence, Communication.*

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## DO INTERCOMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS FAVOUR POLYCENTRIC DEVELOPMENT? AN ANALYSIS OF TERRITORIAL POLICIES OF THE EU

Cosmin CHIRIAC\*

**Abstract.** *For more than two decades now, amongst some of the concepts put forth by informal and official documents of the EU we find polycentric development. The term has been extensively studied in many research papers sparking interest in other parts of the world too. On the other hand, in preparation of Romania's integration into the EU, Intercommunity Development Associations (IDA) were included in the Romanian legislation to facilitate collaboration between various administrative units of Romania, to address the shortcomings of the administrative fragmentation of its local administrative level and the financial limitations that most rural administrative units face.*

*The purpose of this paper is to understand whether these territorial structures lead to polycentric development or, on the contrary, they enhance the polarizing effect of existing urban centres. To reach our conclusions, we rely mainly on quantitative methods. Our research covers the entire territory of Romania, as we attempted to get sufficient details that describe existing IDAs and that characterize the local administrative units of Romania*

**Keywords:** *Intercommunity development associations, polycentric development, effects of EU territorial policies, intra-regional development, Romania.*

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## TOURISME, INÉGALITÉS ET RECOMPOSITIONS SOCIALES : POUR UNE APPROCHE CRITIQUE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT TOURISTIQUE DANS LE SUD-OUEST MALGACHE

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**Abstract.** *Cet article présente une synthèse des résultats de recherches menées à Mangily, une station balnéaire en pleine croissance du Sud-ouest malgache. Combinant les théories pionnières en tourismologie, en économie du développement, en géographie humaine et en sociologie durkheimienne de l'anomie, il analyse les dissemblances sociales, les recompositions communautaires et les processus de gentrification touristique observés. Les données qualitatives révèlent un paradoxe structurel : levier de développement, le tourisme favorise simultanément une déstructuration communautaire, un effritement culturel et la pauvreté des autochtones. Un modèle d'interprétation articulant la notion de recomposition sociale dysharmonique avec celle de gentrification touristique périphérique est alors proposé.*

**Keywords:** *Madagascar, tourisme, distinctions, recompositions sociales, gentrification*

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