



IN AND OUT UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN UNION BEYOND ITS BORDER

Newsletter, February 2018

The Department of International Relations and European Integration of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) has launched on 1st of September 2015 the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence In and Out: Understanding the European Union beyond its Borders, co-financed by the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture of the European Commission through ERASMUS+ Programme. This project will be implemented in the period September 2015-July 2018.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The projects aims:

- Increase and improve the knowledge level regarding EU borders through specific research activities whose results will be published in order to reach maximum visibility;
- Increase the border management at the EU Eastern border by developing content and tools on this EU subject, through implementing quality of professional trainings in this area;
- Raising interest on border management through enhancing debates and sharing good practices about EU border management activities between different categories of stakeholders - academia, civil servants (frontier workers), policy-makers, civil society, etc. – from the three countries envisaged by the project (Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

In search for solutions to counteract the risks from the common borders

The research activities aim to fulfil two objectives. Firstly, they will help elaborating final documents that will serve as didactic material for the courses that are going to be held and will contribute to the advancement of knowledge on European policies by filling in the existing gaps regarding the European border management. Secondly, the research activities aim to evaluate and offer solutions to face the risks from the common neighbouring borders. The impact of the research will be periodically evaluated through SWOT analysis.

Courses in Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova

The second round of preparation courses in border management for frontier workers from Romania, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova took place in June this year. The six teachers representing the institutions involved in the project utilized the updated seven course supports for the teaching activity.

Analysing EU borders

Three conferences, roundtables and study visits will be organized during the project. The conferences will coincide with the opening, mid-term evaluation and completion of the project. These conferences will gather for discussions regarding responsibilities on border management representatives of the civil society, academia and decision-makers from Romania, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

The roundtable debates provide an opportunity for discussion with officials and civil society representatives on the risks and challenges of border management in Romania. The study visits organized in Chişinău and Odessa are aimed at identifying the problems and needs of border management systems of Ukraine and Moldova.



The courses, conferences, roundtables and research activities contribute to the overall objective of the project, namely expanding European studies towards a professional category that normally does not enter in contact with the domain, although their work is related to European issues.

Also, between September 1st 2015 - August 31st 2018, the Department of International Relations and European Integration is the coordinator of the activities in the Centre of Excellence Jean Monnet „Structures of Interconnectivity in the EU's Neighbourhood”, which is connected to the new EU approaches on the European Neighbourhood Policy, focusing on the impact of institutional reform on the development and economic, social and political integration of the partner countries.

TEACHING STAFF:

1. Professor Iordan Gheorghe BĂRBULESCU, PhD. Teaching/Research: The architecture of the European Union: institutions and decisional process; The policies of the European Union
2. Professor George ANGLIȚOIU, PhD. Teaching/Research: The European Union's Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
3. Professor Ioan HORGA, PhD. Teaching/Research: The evaluation of cross-border cooperation
4. Professor Mircea BRIE, PhD. Teaching/Research: The identity of national minorities and new forms of a frontier in the European area
5. Professor Adrian IVAN, PhD. Teaching/Research: „Horizon 2020”: Eastern Europe
6. Lecturer Dacian DUNA, PhD. Teaching/Research: Geopolitics of Central and Eastern Europe

Administrative staff: Professor Iordan Gh. Bărbulescu – Academic Coordinator; Mihaela Aioanei, PhD. – Academic Assistant; Ana-Maria Costea, PhD. – Academic Assistant; Luminița Bogdan, PhD. Student – Assistant; Amira Sawan, PhD. Student – Assistant; Alexandra Prelipceanu, PhD. – Module Webmaster

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SO FAR:

EU Studies on Border Management Virtual Platform

The e-learning platform "EU Studies on Border Management" was launched in September 2015 and stores all the details regarding the events organised so far, as well as those coming further. Moreover, the platform hosts all the necessary information required for the courses and online teaching, but also a database with the primary and secondary sources regarding border management.

In / Out Centre of Excellence



IN AND OUT: UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN UNION BEYOND ITS BORDERS

Financed by: The European Commission, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Host Institution: The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Department of International Relations and European Integration

<http://europolity.eu/in-out-centre-of-excelence>

Updating the Database

The database provides information on EU legislation regarding border management. At the same, information regarding the national legislation from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania on the specific aforementioned subject is available. Moreover, we put at your disposal reports, analyses and academic articles regarding border management in the region.



<http://europolity.eu/database>

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Courses in Romania

The second round of training courses on border management for the Romanian frontier workers took place between November 27th and 30th. The courses were attended by 70 participants from the Bucharest Customs Directorate. The six teachers representing the institutions involved in the project utilized the updated seven course supports for the teaching activity.



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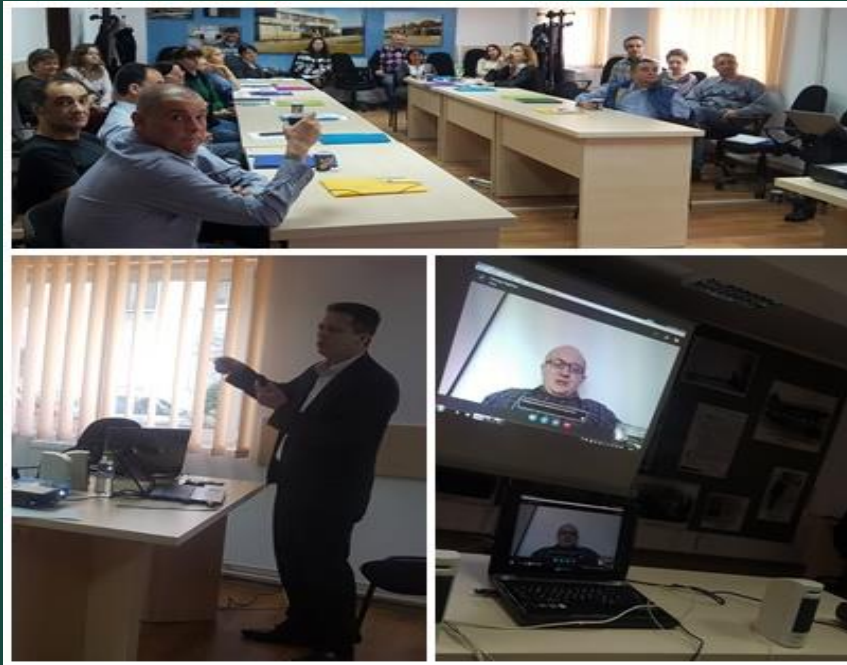
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Study visit to Bucharest

In order to analyse future achievements and possibilities for cooperation, in December 2017, a professor from the Odessa Maritime University conducted a training mobility at SNSPA. This activity was possible as a result of furthering the cooperation between the two institutions also under the Erasmus + KA 107 program. The meeting focused on discussions regarding future mobility actions of some SNSPA teachers / students in Odessa and vice versa.

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Research

Two academic articles have been published as a result of the research activities carried out, such as study visits, conferences and round tables. The purpose of these articles is to familiarize the target group with public policy issues and programme evaluation, focusing in particular on cross-border cooperation and its impact on improving governance. Both articles can be found in the international academic journal *Europolicy*, Vol. 11, no. 2 from 2017.



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1. The first article entitled "**THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN ROMANIA AND UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EPP) AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS**" belongs to Professor Mircea Brie. This article aims to analyze the European Neighbourhood Policy for the Eastern Border, focusing specifically on neighbourhood relations developed with Ukrain.

Link: <http://doi.org/10.25019/europolity.2017.11.2.03>

2. The second article entitled "**GEOPOLITICS AT THE EASTERN BORDERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: EASTERN EUROPE BETWEEN EU AND RUSSIA**" belongs to Professor Dacian Duna which presents a comparative analysis of the EU's Eastern neighbourhood policies in the pre-accession and post-accession period. In other words, the author aims to analyse the extent to which a new Russian geopolitical renaissance can influence EU policies in its Eastern neighbourhood.

Link: <http://doi.org/10.25019/europolity.2017.11.2.05>

Updating the course supports

Between December 2017 and January 2018 the process of updating/adapting the seven course supports was completed in order to better respond to the needs of border workers.

The updated course supports can be consulted at:

- * <http://europolity.eu/teaching-content-and-didactic-materials/>
- * <http://europolity.eu/learning-tools-charts-infographs-working-sheets/>

WHAT IS NEXT?

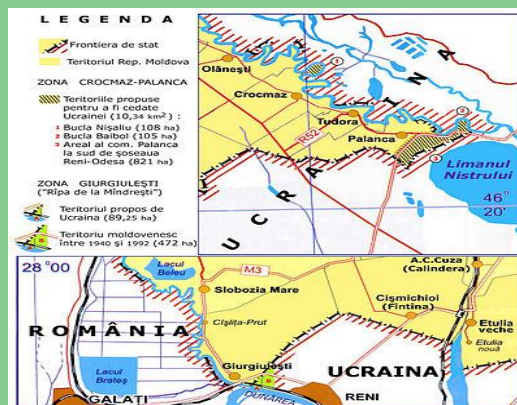
Preparing courses in the Republic of Moldova

In March this year, the six teachers from the three institutions involved in the project will perform training courses on border management for the frontier workers from the Republic of Moldova. Teaching will take place through seven courses, combining traditional lecture elements with interactive approaches, involving participants in debates on EU border issues.



Study visit in Republic of Moldova

In order to analyse the future achievements and possibilities of cooperation regarding border issues between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the six project teachers will hold a study visit to Moldova in March.



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Debate: Cross-border cooperation: a solution for ensuring the EU borders

A roundtable entitled "Cross-border cooperation: a solution for securing the EU borders" will be held in March. This event will create the opportunity to generate debates between officials and civil society representatives on the key issues regarding the border management challenges and risks faced by the three states involved in the project in managing the border as an EU border state.

Closing Conference of the Project: Challenges to the EU's borders in the 21st Century

The conference, entitled "Challenges to EU's borders in the 21st Century", will take place in July 2018. This event aims at gathering experts, academics, policy makers and stakeholders to discuss opportunities for collaboration between institutions involved in border management and debating how to improve security at the EU's Eastern borders. Moreover, the closing conference will contribute to the evaluation and dissemination of the results obtained, focusing on the strengths and vulnerabilities identified in order to adapt and improve the project. Given the participation of the frontier workers involved in the project, the aspects that need revision can be pointed out more easily. Last but not least, the dissemination impact of these elements among the participants, including academics, researchers, public administrators and civil society representatives is also important.



Call for papers *Europolity* – Continuity and Change in European Governance Vol. 12, no. 1 (2018)

Europolity is an academic journal that is indexed in 7 international data bases, for publication of new ideas, research results and fundamental advances in all aspects of International Relations, European Studies and Political Science.

Authors should send their abstracts (200-250 words) to contact@europolity.eu before 15 March 2018.

Early submissions are strongly encouraged. Applicants will be informed about selection until 30 March 2018.

The deadline for paper submission is 30 April 2018.

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