

JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (JMCoE-USC)

International Scientific Conference Series



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

International Scientific Conference

The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges



Organised within the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Project
101126909 – JMCoE-USC

Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union

16 May 2025

Cahul, Republic of Moldova



Funded by
the European Union



Jean Monnet
Centre of Excellence
JMCoE-USC



Cahul State University
"Bogdan Petriceicu
Hasdeu"

JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE JMCoE-USC

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**International Scientific Conference
“The Evolution of the European Union
in the Context of New Political and
Institutional Challenges”**

16 May 2025

Cahul, Republic of Moldova

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Ludmila Golovataia, PhD

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)



Chişinău 2026

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Ludmila Golovataia, PhD

Project Coordinator

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)

Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”, Republic of
Moldova

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Elena Bădăreanu, PhD

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Valentina Cornea, PhD

Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”, Republic of
Moldova

Vitalie Cazacu, PhD

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Elena Mandaji, PhD

Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”, Republic of
Moldova

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION:

Project Coordinator Ludmila Golovataia

Conference Team Valentina Cornea

Elena Mandaji

CONTENT

PREFACE.....	6
ABOUT THE JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (JMCoE-USC)	10
CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE: SCIENTIFIC FRAMEWORK AND THEMATIC DIRECTIONS	16
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE.....	24
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME	26
PLENARY SESSION	
THE EUROPEAN UNION IN A NEW GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT: POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION	
Valentina CORNEA	29
THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA ON THE PATH TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERSHIP: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED	
Vitalie CAZACU.....	30
THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, ENLARGEMENT AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE	
Angela POPOVICI	32
EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES IN TIMES OF MULTIPLE CRISES: FROM RESILIENCE TO STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION	
Violeta-Teodora LUNGEANU	33
SESSION I	
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS	35

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN CHALLENGES	
Elena MANDAJI	35
RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION	
Elena BĂDĂDRĂU	36
DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESILIENCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION	
Marianna STOICA	37
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION	
Boris COREȚSCHI	39
POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION	
Maria COMPANEETS	40
SESSION II	
EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES, GOVERNANCE AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES	42
GREEN TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
Ina FILIPOV.....	42
ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND COMPETITIVENESS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION	
Vasil CHIRMICI.....	43
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION	
Liliana CECLU.....	44

SOCIAL COHESION AND EUROPEAN VALUES	
Iurie RUMEUS	45
MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND EUROPEAN SECURITY	
Larisa TRIFONOV	46
EU ENLARGEMENT AND THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD	
Angela CEBAN	47
AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS.....	48
CONFERENCE COORDINATION AND EDITORIAL	
CONTRIBUTION	53
CONFERENCE OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP DIRECTIONS	54
<i>Main Scientific Outcomes</i>	54
<i>Follow-up Research Directions</i>	56
<i>Strengthening Academic Cooperation.....</i>	57
<i>Continuing the Academic Dialogue</i>	58
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	59
DISCLAIMER.....	59

PREFACE

The International Scientific Conference “The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges”, held on 16 May 2025, was organised within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Project No. 101126909 – JM-CoE-USC “Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union”. The conference represented one of the major academic events implemented within the project and reflected its commitment to promoting excellence in teaching, research and public dialogue on the European Union. Bringing together representatives of academia, experts and students, the conference created an opportunity to discuss the most significant political and institutional developments currently shaping the European integration process.

The organisation of this conference was motivated by the rapidly changing political landscape both within Europe and beyond its borders. In recent years, the European Union has been required to respond simultaneously to multiple challenges affecting its political cohesion, institutional architecture, economic development and international role. The consequences of Russia’s war against Ukraine, the acceleration of the enlargement process, debates on institutional reforms, migration management, energy security, digital transformation, sustainable development and the strengthening of democratic resilience have all become integral elements of contemporary discussions concerning the future of European integration. These developments have demonstrated that the European Union is undergoing a period of profound transformation requiring continuous academic reflection and evidence-based policy analysis.

Understanding these complex processes demands an interdisciplinary perspective. Contemporary European challenges cannot be adequately examined from the standpoint of a single scientific discipline. Political science, economics, law, international relations, public administration, sociology and security studies each provide valuable analytical instruments for understanding the changing nature of the European Union. One of the principal objectives of the conference was therefore to encourage dialogue among scholars representing different academic

traditions and research fields, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of current European developments.

The conference also reflected the broader objectives of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC). As one of the flagship actions of the Erasmus+ Programme, Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence seek to strengthen knowledge about the European Union, encourage high-quality research, promote innovative teaching and foster cooperation between universities, public institutions and society. The establishment of the Centre of Excellence created new opportunities for expanding European Studies in the Republic of Moldova, supporting academic cooperation and strengthening the European dimension within higher education and research. Scientific conferences constitute one of the most effective instruments for achieving these objectives, providing an environment in which scientific knowledge may be exchanged, critically discussed and further developed.

The theme of the conference was deliberately chosen to reflect the contemporary realities confronting the European Union. Political and institutional developments have become increasingly interconnected with issues of security, economic competitiveness, technological innovation, environmental sustainability and social cohesion. Consequently, the conference programme was designed to encourage discussion on a broad range of topics, including the evolution of European institutions, democratic governance, the rule of law, European public policies, the enlargement process, neighbourhood relations, migration, security, sustainable development, economic resilience and the role of the European Union in an increasingly complex international environment. The diversity of presentations demonstrated both the richness of contemporary European Studies and the growing importance of interdisciplinary research for understanding European integration.

The conference brought together university professors, researchers, doctoral candidates, experts, representatives of public institutions and students from different academic communities. The active participation of scholars with diverse professional backgrounds created favourable conditions for meaningful scientific dialogue and the exchange of research experience. Beyond the presentation of individual studies, the conference served as a platform for establishing new academic contacts,

strengthening existing partnerships and encouraging future collaborative research initiatives. Such interaction represents one of the essential characteristics of contemporary academic life, where scientific progress increasingly depends upon cooperation, openness and the exchange of ideas across institutional and disciplinary boundaries.

This Book of Abstracts presents the summaries of the scientific papers delivered during the conference. Although concise in format, the abstracts provide an overview of the principal research themes discussed by the participants and reflect the diversity of approaches employed in analysing the European Union and its contemporary development. Together, they illustrate current directions of research in European Studies while highlighting issues of continuing academic and practical relevance. The publication serves not only as a record of the conference proceedings but also as a valuable source of information for researchers seeking an overview of current debates on European integration.

The preparation of this volume also contributes to one of the fundamental missions of academic publishing: ensuring the dissemination and long-term accessibility of scientific knowledge. Conferences provide an essential environment for scholarly discussion; however, their intellectual outcomes achieve greater impact when they are documented and made available to the wider academic community. By publishing the abstracts presented during the conference, the organisers seek to preserve the principal research ideas, facilitate their dissemination and encourage their further development through future scientific cooperation and publication.

The successful organisation of the conference and the preparation of this publication were made possible through the commitment and cooperation of many individuals. The Editor expresses sincere appreciation to all authors whose research has contributed to the scientific quality of this volume and to all conference participants whose active engagement enriched the discussions and strengthened the academic value of the event. Special gratitude is extended to colleagues involved in the implementation of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Project for their professionalism, dedication and continuous support throughout the preparation and organisation of the conference.

Appreciation is also expressed to the European Commission for supporting the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence initiative, thereby contributing to the advancement of European Studies, academic cooperation and knowledge sharing in the Republic of Moldova.

It is hoped that this Book of Abstracts will become a useful academic resource for university teachers, researchers, doctoral candidates, students, policymakers and all readers interested in the contemporary evolution of the European Union. The publication reflects the scientific dialogue initiated during the conference and demonstrates the continuing importance of academic research in understanding the opportunities and challenges facing the European integration process.

It is equally hoped that the ideas presented in this volume will inspire further scholarly inquiry, strengthen international academic cooperation and contribute to the ongoing development of European Studies in Moldova and beyond.

Ludmila Golovataia, PhD

Editor

Project Coordinator Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
(JMCoE-USC)

Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”,
Republic of Moldova

ABOUT THE JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (JMCoE-USC)

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC) “Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union”, Project No. 101126909, was established at Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” within the framework of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions. The Centre was conceived as an academic platform for strengthening teaching, research, public dialogue and knowledge dissemination in the field of European Studies, with particular attention to the European integration process and its relevance for the Republic of Moldova.

The establishment of the Centre reflects the growing importance of European Studies for Moldovan higher education and research. The relationship between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union has undergone profound changes during recent years, transforming European integration from a field of predominantly academic and policy interest into one of the central dimensions of the country’s institutional, economic and societal development. This transformation has increased the need for systematic knowledge about the European Union, its institutions, policies, legal framework, economic mechanisms and external relations.

Against this background, the JMCoE-USC seeks to contribute to a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the European Union among students, academics, researchers and the wider public. Its activities are based on the principle that European integration should be approached as a multidimensional process encompassing political, economic, legal, social, institutional and international aspects. Consequently, the Centre promotes interdisciplinary approaches capable of connecting different fields of knowledge and encouraging dialogue between academic disciplines.

Mission and Objectives

The principal mission of the JMCoE-USC is to strengthen and disseminate knowledge about the European Union through high-quality teaching, research, academic cooperation and public engagement. The Centre provides an institutional framework within which European

Studies can be developed through the interaction of educational, scientific and dissemination activities.

One of its central objectives is to strengthen the European dimension of university education. Teaching activities associated with the Centre provide students with opportunities to examine European integration from different perspectives and to understand both the functioning of the European Union and the implications of European policies for partner and candidate countries. Particular attention is devoted to linking theoretical knowledge with contemporary developments, thereby helping students understand European integration as a dynamic and continuously evolving process.

Another important objective is the promotion of research on the European Union and European integration. The Centre encourages academic analysis of contemporary European developments and supports the dissemination of research results through scientific publications, conferences, seminars and other academic activities. Research conducted within the framework of the Centre contributes to discussions concerning European institutions and policies, economic integration, governance, security, migration, sustainable development, neighbourhood relations and the enlargement process.

The JMCoE-USC also aims to strengthen academic cooperation. European Studies increasingly require collaboration across universities, countries and scientific disciplines. Through conferences, seminars and joint academic initiatives, the Centre creates opportunities for researchers and university teachers to exchange ideas, develop professional networks and explore possibilities for future cooperation.

A further objective is to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge beyond the immediate academic community. European integration influences a wide range of public policies and societal processes. For this reason, knowledge about the European Union is relevant not only for university students and researchers but also for public institutions, civil society, professionals and citizens. The Centre therefore seeks to contribute to a broader culture of informed discussion on European affairs.

Teaching and Knowledge Development

Education represents one of the principal dimensions of the Centre's activities. The JMCoE-USC contributes to the development and delivery of teaching activities devoted to European integration and

European Union policies. These activities are intended to strengthen students' understanding of the historical development, institutional architecture, policy mechanisms and contemporary challenges of the European Union.

An important feature of the educational approach promoted by the Centre is the connection between European-level developments and the experience of the Republic of Moldova. This enables students to examine European integration not only as a general process of regional cooperation but also as a transformation with direct implications for national institutions, economic development, public administration and society.

The changing European environment requires educational content to be continuously updated. Enlargement, geopolitical instability, energy security, digital transformation, migration, climate policies and institutional reforms have significantly broadened the traditional agenda of European Studies. The Centre therefore promotes teaching approaches that reflect the evolving character of the European Union and encourage students to analyse contemporary challenges through an interdisciplinary perspective.

Through these activities, the Centre contributes to developing knowledge and analytical skills that are increasingly important for students and young professionals in the Republic of Moldova. Understanding European institutions, policies and regulatory frameworks is becoming particularly relevant in the context of the country's European integration and accession process.

Research and Academic Dialogue

Research constitutes another fundamental component of the JM-CoE-USC. The Centre encourages scientific analysis of the processes shaping the European Union and its relations with neighbouring and candidate countries. Particular attention is devoted to issues that have both European and national relevance.

The research agenda reflects the complexity of contemporary European integration. It includes institutional development, economic integration, European governance, neighbourhood and enlargement policies, migration and mobility, security, sustainable development and the transformation of the European Union in response to emerging political, economic and geopolitical challenges.

Scientific conferences and seminars organised within the framework of the Centre provide an important mechanism for connecting individual research with wider academic debate. Such events enable scholars to present research findings, compare methodological approaches and discuss emerging issues with colleagues from different institutions and disciplines.

Academic dialogue is especially important in periods of rapid transformation. The European Union currently faces interconnected challenges related to enlargement, geopolitical competition, economic competitiveness, energy transition, digitalisation, demographic change and democratic resilience. Understanding these processes requires continuous research and an exchange of perspectives between scholars specialising in different fields.

The Centre therefore seeks to function not only as a structure for implementing individual project activities but also as a meeting point for researchers interested in European Studies. By encouraging academic dialogue and cooperation, it contributes to the creation and dissemination of knowledge that can remain relevant beyond the duration of individual events and activities.

Dissemination and Academic Cooperation

The dissemination of knowledge is an integral part of the Centre's mission. Research and educational activities achieve their broader purpose when their results become accessible to academic and professional communities and stimulate further discussion.

Scientific publications represent an important component of this process. Conference materials, research papers and other publications produced in connection with the Centre document the results of academic activities and provide resources that can be used by teachers, researchers, students and other interested readers.

Conferences and scientific seminars complement publications by creating spaces for direct intellectual exchange. They allow researchers to discuss ideas before and after publication, receive feedback and identify new research questions. They also facilitate contacts among scholars from different institutions and contribute to the development of academic networks.

The JMCoe-USC attaches particular importance to cooperation between researchers representing different generations and academic

backgrounds. Interaction between experienced academics, early-career researchers and students helps maintain continuity in European Studies while introducing new themes, methods and perspectives.

International and interinstitutional cooperation further strengthens this process. European integration itself is based on interaction across national and institutional boundaries, and European Studies benefit from the same principle. Cooperation between universities and researchers can expand access to expertise, encourage comparative research and create opportunities for future joint educational and scientific initiatives.

The Centre in the Context of Moldova's European Integration

The activities of the JMCoE-USC have acquired additional relevance in the context of the changing relationship between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. The country's European trajectory has increased the demand for knowledge concerning European institutions, legislation, policies and integration mechanisms.

In this environment, universities have an important role. They educate future professionals who may participate directly or indirectly in the processes of institutional modernisation, economic adaptation and implementation of European standards. Universities also provide a space for independent academic analysis and informed debate about the opportunities, challenges and long-term implications of European integration.

The JMCoE-USC contributes to this role by bringing together teaching, research and dissemination activities within a common framework. Its contribution should therefore be understood not simply in terms of individual courses, conferences or publications, but as part of a broader effort to strengthen European Studies and European knowledge within the academic environment of the Republic of Moldova.

The Centre also demonstrates the importance of connecting national and regional academic communities with wider European debates. Developments in Moldova increasingly form part of discussions concerning enlargement, the Eastern Neighbourhood, security, economic integration and the future architecture of Europe. At the same time, European developments have direct implications for Moldova's institutional and socio-economic transformation.

Building Sustainable Academic Capacity

One of the long-term values of a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence lies in the academic capacity created through its activities. Courses can generate new educational materials; research can stimulate further studies; conferences can establish new professional contacts; and publications can preserve and disseminate knowledge beyond the period in which individual activities take place.

From this perspective, sustainability is closely linked to the ability to transform project activities into lasting academic resources and networks. Teaching materials can continue to support university education, publications can remain available to researchers and students, and professional relationships established through conferences and seminars can provide a foundation for future cooperation.

The development of European Studies is particularly important in a country undergoing an active process of European integration. The demand for expertise concerning European policies, institutions and regulatory frameworks is likely to increase as this process develops. Strengthening academic capacity today therefore contributes to preparing the educational and research environment for future needs.

The JMCoE-USC “Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union” represents an effort to respond to these needs by combining education, research, academic cooperation and dissemination. Through its activities, the Centre contributes to strengthening knowledge about the European Union, expanding academic dialogue and supporting the development of European Studies in the Republic of Moldova.

The International Scientific Conference “The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges” constitutes an important part of this broader academic mission. By bringing together scholars and creating a platform for discussion of contemporary European developments, the conference reflects the Centre’s commitment to knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary research and cooperation. The present Book of Abstracts documents one of the outcomes of this activity and contributes to preserving and disseminating the scientific dialogue developed within the framework of the JM-CoE-USC.

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE: SCIENTIFIC FRAMEWORK AND THEMATIC DIRECTIONS

Conference Profile and Scientific Objectives

The International Scientific Conference “The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges”, held on 16 May 2025, was conceived as an interdisciplinary academic forum for examining the transformations currently shaping the European Union and the wider process of European integration. Organised within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Project No. 101126909 – JMCoE-USC “Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union”, the conference brought together researchers and academics interested in the political, institutional, economic and societal dimensions of contemporary European development.

The scientific concept of the conference reflected the changing environment in which the European Union operates. European integration is increasingly influenced by interconnected political, economic, security, technological, environmental and social developments. Geopolitical instability, Russia’s war against Ukraine, renewed enlargement dynamics, debates concerning institutional reform, migration pressures, energy security, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, sustainable development and questions of democratic resilience have expanded the research agenda of European Studies and created new areas for interdisciplinary analysis.

The conference was therefore designed not around a single dimension of European integration, but around the interaction between institutions, policies and contemporary challenges. This approach made it possible to combine broader discussions concerning the future of the European Union with more focused analyses of governance, economic development, sustainability, digitalisation, migration, security and enlargement.

One of the principal scientific objectives was to examine how the European Union is adapting its institutions and policies to a rapidly changing internal and external environment. Particular attention was given to the capacity of European governance to respond to new challenges while preserving democratic principles, the rule of law, institutional effectiveness and policy coherence.

A second objective was to analyse the transformation of European integration in the context of renewed enlargement. The changing relationship between the European Union and its Eastern partners, particularly the Republic of Moldova, has given new relevance to questions of institutional convergence, economic integration, administrative capacity and the implementation of European standards. The conference provided an opportunity to consider these processes as part of the broader transformation of the European political and institutional environment.

The conference also sought to promote interdisciplinary academic dialogue. Contemporary European challenges cannot be adequately understood from the perspective of a single scientific field. Political and institutional developments are closely connected with economic competitiveness, technological transformation, security, migration, environmental sustainability and social cohesion. Bringing these perspectives together enabled the participants to examine European integration as a complex and multidimensional process.

The scientific programme was structured around a Plenary Session, two thematic sessions and a concluding Panel Discussion. This structure allowed the conference to move from broad questions concerning the development and future of the European Union towards more specialised discussions of institutional transformation and contemporary European policies.

Plenary Session: The European Union in a Changing Political and Geopolitical Environment

The Plenary Session established the general scientific framework of the conference. Its presentations addressed several fundamental issues affecting the contemporary European integration process and provided a conceptual basis for the discussions developed during the subsequent sessions.

The first important dimension concerned the position of the European Union in a new geopolitical environment. The transformation of the international system, the consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine, security challenges and increasing strategic competition have affected both the external role of the European Union and the functioning of its institutions. These developments raise questions concerning the Union's ability to maintain political cohesion, strengthen strategic

capacity and respond effectively to crises while preserving its fundamental principles and values.

A second major direction was the renewed enlargement process and, in particular, the European trajectory of the Republic of Moldova. The transition from association and cooperation towards candidate status and accession negotiations represents a significant transformation in Moldova's relationship with the European Union. This process creates opportunities for institutional modernisation and economic integration, while simultaneously requiring substantial reforms, administrative capacity and the effective implementation of European standards.

The Plenary Session also addressed the relationship between institutional reform, enlargement and democratic resilience. Future enlargements may influence the institutional architecture and decision-making mechanisms of the European Union, while democratic resilience remains essential for maintaining the legitimacy and sustainability of European governance. These issues demonstrate that enlargement is not only a process of transformation for candidate countries but also a factor influencing the future development of the European Union itself.

Another dimension concerned the evolution of European Union policies in response to multiple and interconnected crises. Recent experience has demonstrated that challenges related to security, energy, migration, economic development, technological change and sustainability cannot always be addressed independently. The increasing importance of resilience and strategic coordination reflects a broader transformation in European policymaking and the growing need for integrated responses to complex challenges.

Taken together, the Plenary Session presentations established a broad analytical framework centred on the relationship between geopolitical change, enlargement, institutional adaptation, democratic resilience and the transformation of European policies. These themes subsequently provided important points of reference for the specialised discussions of the two thematic sessions.

Session I – European Integration: Political and Institutional Developments

The first thematic session focused on the political and institutional dimensions of European integration. Its contributions examined how European governance is responding to contemporary challenges and

how institutional structures can be adapted to changing political, economic and geopolitical conditions.

A central issue was the capacity of European institutions to respond effectively to complex challenges. Contemporary European governance requires coordination among institutions, Member States and different levels of public administration. At the same time, effective responses must remain consistent with democratic accountability, transparency and the rule of law. Institutional resilience therefore emerged as an important element of the discussion, reflecting the need for governance structures capable of maintaining their functions and adapting during periods of uncertainty and crisis.

Particular attention was devoted to the rule of law and democratic resilience. The rule of law constitutes one of the fundamental principles of the European Union and plays an essential role in ensuring legal certainty, institutional accountability and the protection of fundamental rights. Challenges related to democratic governance, political polarisation, disinformation and declining trust in public institutions have increased the importance of mechanisms capable of safeguarding common European values.

The session also examined the broader relationship between democracy, governance and institutional resilience. Effective governance depends not only on the formal existence of institutions but also on their capacity to implement policies, coordinate activities, communicate transparently and maintain public confidence. From this perspective, democratic participation, administrative effectiveness and institutional accountability represent interconnected elements of sustainable European governance.

Another important direction concerned institutional transformation within the European integration process. The European Union has continuously adapted its institutions and governance mechanisms in response to successive enlargements, crises and changes in the international environment. Institutional transformation should therefore be understood not simply as a reaction to individual crises but as a continuing feature of European integration.

The session further addressed the broader political and institutional challenges of European integration, including the relationship between supranational governance and national interests, democratic legitimacy, differentiated integration and the need for flexible but co-

herent decision-making mechanisms. These issues are particularly relevant as the European Union considers further enlargement while simultaneously responding to internal and external pressures.

Overall, Session I demonstrated that the sustainability of European integration depends to a considerable extent on the quality, adaptability and democratic legitimacy of its institutions. Institutional reform, the rule of law, effective governance and democratic resilience are not separate issues but closely interconnected dimensions of the European integration process.

Session II – European Union Policies, Governance and Contemporary Challenges

The second thematic session broadened the scientific discussion from institutional development to the principal policies and contemporary challenges affecting the European Union. The contributions reflected the multidimensional character of European integration and demonstrated the growing interdependence between economic, technological, environmental, social and security policies.

One of the important directions concerned the green transition and sustainable development. The European Union's environmental and climate objectives increasingly influence energy policy, investment, technological innovation, industrial development and economic competitiveness. The transition towards a more sustainable economy therefore represents not only an environmental objective but also a broader structural transformation with important economic and social implications.

The relationship between economic governance and competitiveness constituted another major theme. Recent economic and geopolitical developments have reinforced the importance of economic resilience, innovation and investment. European competitiveness increasingly depends on the capacity to combine macroeconomic stability with technological development, digitalisation, sustainable investment and the effective functioning of the Single Market.

The session also addressed digital transformation and artificial intelligence, which have become central elements of contemporary European development. Digital technologies create opportunities for increasing productivity, improving public services and supporting scientific and economic innovation. At the same time, the development of

artificial intelligence raises new regulatory, ethical and security questions concerning transparency, accountability, data protection and fundamental rights. These issues illustrate the need to balance technological innovation with the human-centred and values-based approach promoted by the European Union.

A further dimension concerned social cohesion and European values. Economic and technological transformation must be accompanied by policies capable of promoting social inclusion, equal opportunities and participation. Demographic change, economic disparities and social inequalities continue to influence European societies and demonstrate the importance of maintaining a strong social dimension within the integration process.

Migration, mobility and European security represented another significant direction of discussion. Migration is a multidimensional phenomenon with implications for labour markets, demographic development, social policy, border management, international protection and security. The complexity of migration requires coordinated approaches capable of balancing mobility and economic needs with effective governance, solidarity and respect for fundamental rights.

Finally, the session examined EU enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood. Renewed enlargement has significantly changed the strategic importance of the European Union's eastern neighbourhood. The European perspectives of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have created a closer connection between neighbourhood policy, enlargement, institutional reform and regional security. These developments demonstrate that the future of the Eastern Neighbourhood is increasingly linked to broader debates concerning the future architecture and stability of Europe.

The diversity of topics discussed during Session II illustrates the increasingly interconnected nature of European policies. Economic competitiveness cannot be separated from digital transformation and sustainability; migration has economic, social and security dimensions; enlargement is linked to governance, institutional capacity and geopolitical stability. The session therefore reinforced one of the central ideas of the conference: contemporary European challenges require integrated and interdisciplinary analysis.

Panel Discussion – The Future of the European Union: Political, Institutional and Societal Perspectives

The conference concluded with a Panel Discussion devoted to “The Future of the European Union: Political, Institutional and Societal Perspectives.” The panel provided an opportunity to connect the principal issues addressed during the Plenary Session and the two thematic sessions and to consider their implications for the future development of European integration.

The discussion focused on the future of the European Union in the context of current political and institutional transformations, as well as on the principal challenges and opportunities affecting the European integration process. Particular attention was also devoted to the importance of strengthening research and education in European Studies.

This final dimension was especially relevant to the academic mission of the conference. The complexity of contemporary European developments increases the need for high-quality research, interdisciplinary cooperation and the continuous updating of educational content. Universities and research institutions have an important role in analysing European transformations, preparing specialists capable of understanding European policies and creating spaces for informed discussion.

The Panel Discussion therefore served not only as the concluding component of the scientific programme but also as a link between the individual research contributions and the broader objectives of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

Scientific Contribution and Academic Impact

The scientific structure of the conference demonstrates the breadth of contemporary European Studies and the strong interconnection between different dimensions of European integration. The Plenary Session provided the general political and geopolitical framework; Session I concentrated on institutional and democratic development; Session II extended the analysis towards economic, environmental, technological, social, migration, security and enlargement policies; and the concluding Panel Discussion brought these perspectives together in a broader debate about the future of Europe.

Such a structure made it possible to combine specialised research with interdisciplinary dialogue. Although individual papers addressed

different topics, they were connected by a common concern with the capacity of the European Union and its partners to respond to transformation, manage emerging challenges and strengthen the institutional and societal foundations of European integration.

The conference also contributed to academic cooperation by creating a platform for researchers representing different institutions and fields of expertise. The exchange of research findings and perspectives provides opportunities for further scientific collaboration, joint publications and the development of new research initiatives in European Studies.

The present Book of Abstracts documents the principal scientific contributions presented during the conference and preserves them for a wider academic audience. It provides an overview of the themes discussed during the event and reflects the diversity of contemporary research on the European Union.

In this sense, the conference should be regarded not only as an individual academic event but also as part of the broader process of strengthening European Studies, research cooperation and knowledge dissemination promoted by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JM-CoE-USC).

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The International Scientific Conference “The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges” was held on 16 May 2025 within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Project No. 101126909 – JMCoE-USC “Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union”, funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ Programme.

The conference was organised by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC) with the aim of providing an international academic platform for discussing the contemporary political, institutional, economic and social developments affecting the European Union. It formed part of the Centre’s educational and research activities designed to strengthen knowledge about the European Union, promote academic excellence and encourage interdisciplinary research in the field of European Studies.

The event brought together university professors, researchers, doctoral candidates, experts, representatives of public institutions and students interested in the study of European integration and contemporary European policies. The conference provided participants with an opportunity to exchange research findings, discuss current developments within the European Union and examine future perspectives for European integration in an increasingly complex international environment.

The scientific programme was structured around a number of thematic areas reflecting the principal challenges currently facing the European Union. Particular attention was devoted to the political evolution of the European Union, institutional reforms, democratic governance, the rule of law, European public policies, security, migration, neighbourhood policy, sustainable development, economic resilience and the future of the European integration process. The diversity of topics and methodological approaches demonstrated the interdisciplinary nature of European Studies and highlighted the importance of cooperation between different scientific disciplines in addressing contemporary European challenges.

One of the principal objectives of the conference was to encourage dialogue between experienced researchers, early-career scholars and

students, thereby strengthening academic cooperation and promoting the dissemination of research on European integration. The conference also contributed to expanding professional networks and creating new opportunities for future collaborative projects, scientific publications and educational initiatives.

The present Book of Abstracts contains the abstracts of the papers presented during the conference. The publication provides a concise overview of the scientific contributions discussed during the event and reflects the diversity of research interests represented by the participants. It serves both as a documentary record of the conference and as a source of information for researchers, teachers, students and practitioners interested in the contemporary development of the European Union.

The organisation of the conference and the publication of this volume constitute an important contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC). By promoting academic dialogue, encouraging international cooperation and disseminating scientific knowledge, the conference supports the development of European Studies in the Republic of Moldova and contributes to strengthening understanding of the European Union and its policies among the academic community and the wider public.

Conference Information

Conference Title	International Scientific Conference <i>"The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges"</i>
Date	16 May 2025
Venue	Cahul State University "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu", Cahul, Republic of Moldova
Organiser	Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)
Project	Project No. 101126909 – JMCoE-USC <i>Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union</i>
Programme	Erasmus+ Jean Monnet
Publication	<i>Book of Abstracts</i>
Language(s)	Romanian and English

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday, 16 May 2025

Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”

Cahul, Republic of Moldova

09:30–10:00 **Registration of Participants**

10:00–10:30 **OPENING SESSION**

Moderator: Elena Bădădrău, PhD, Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)

WELCOME ADDRESSES

Sergiu Cornea, Habilitated Doctor, Professor, Rector of Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”

Ludmila Golovataia, PhD, Associate Professor, Project Coordinator, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)

Greetings from the Conference Guests

10:30–12:30

PLENARY SESSION

Valentina Cornea (*Romania*)

The European Union in a New Geopolitical Environment: Political and Institutional Challenges for the Future of European Integration

Vitalie Cazacu (*Republic of Moldova*)

The Republic of Moldova on the Path towards European Union Membership: Opportunities, Challenges and Lessons Learned

Angela Popovici (*Romania*)

The Future of the European Union: Institutional Reform, Enlargement and Democratic Resilience

Violeta-Teodora Lungeanu (*Romania*)

European Union Policies in Times of Multiple Crises: From Resilience to Strategic Transformation

12:30–13:00 **Lunch Break**

13:00–15:00 **SESSION I**
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL
DEVELOPMENTS

Elena Mandaji — Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”

Elena Bădădrău — State University of Moldova

Marianna Stoica — State University of Moldova

Boris Corețșchi — State University of Moldova

Maria Companeets — State University of Moldova

15:00–15:20 **Coffee Break**

15:20–17:00 **SESSION II**
EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES, GOVERNANCE AND
CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Ina Filipov — Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”

Vasil Chirmici — State University of Moldova

Liliana Ceclu — Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”

Iurie Rumeus — Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”

Larisa Trifonov — State University of Moldova

Angela Ceban — State University of Moldova

17:00–17:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Moderator: **Ludmila Golovataia, PhD**, Project Coordinator Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)

Theme: THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: POLITICAL,
INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIETAL PERSPECTIVES

Discussion Topics

- ✓ The Future of the European Union in the Context of Current Political and Institutional Transformations
- ✓ Challenges and Opportunities for the European Integration Process
- ✓ Strengthening Research and Education in European Studies
- ✓ Questions and Answers

17:30 **CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE**

ABSTRACTS

PLENARY SESSION

THE EUROPEAN UNION IN A NEW GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT: POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Valentina CORNEA

PhD, Associate Professor,

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC), Universitatea din Galați, România

Abstract

The European Union is entering a new phase of its development marked by profound geopolitical, political and institutional transformations. The growing complexity of the international environment, Russia's war against Ukraine, renewed enlargement dynamics, increasing strategic competition among global powers, migration pressures, energy security concerns and rapid technological change have significantly influenced both the internal functioning of the European Union and its external role. These developments have intensified discussions regarding the Union's capacity to respond effectively to contemporary challenges while preserving its founding values, democratic principles and institutional stability.

This paper examines the principal political and institutional challenges shaping the future of European integration. Particular attention is devoted to the evolving system of European governance, the effectiveness of decision-making mechanisms, institutional reforms and the strengthening of democratic legitimacy within the European Union. The analysis also considers the implications of the enlargement process, the development of strategic autonomy and the growing importance of resilience as a guiding principle of European policymaking.

The paper argues that the changing geopolitical environment requires not only the adaptation of existing European policies but also the modernization of institutional structures capable of ensuring greater flexibility, solidarity and coherence in responding to emerging crises.

Future European integration will increasingly depend on the ability of the European Union to reconcile national interests with common strategic objectives while maintaining respect for the rule of law, democratic governance and fundamental rights.

The study concludes that the European Union possesses considerable institutional and political capacity to address current challenges, provided that reform efforts continue to strengthen its effectiveness, democratic accountability and strategic unity. In this context, European integration should be understood as a dynamic and evolving process requiring continuous adaptation to changing international realities while preserving the principles that have historically underpinned the European project.

Keywords: European Union, European integration, geopolitics, institutional reform, democratic governance, enlargement, strategic autonomy.

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA ON THE PATH TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERSHIP: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Vitalie CAZACU

PhD, Associate Professor,

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JM-CoE-USC), Universitatea de Stat din Moldova, Moldova

Abstract

The Republic of Moldova's progress towards European Union membership represents one of the most significant political and strategic developments in the country's recent history. The granting of EU candidate status and the launch of accession negotiations have opened a new stage in Moldova's European integration process, creating both unprecedented opportunities and complex institutional, political and socio-economic challenges. These developments have also reaffirmed the strategic importance of the European Union's enlargement policy as an instrument for promoting stability, democratic governance and sustainable development in the European neighbourhood.

This paper analyses the principal opportunities and challenges

associated with Moldova's European integration in the context of the evolving geopolitical environment. Particular attention is devoted to the implementation of the EU acquis, public administration reform, the strengthening of democratic institutions, the rule of law, anti-corruption policies and economic modernisation. The paper also examines the impact of regional security developments and external geopolitical pressures on the country's European integration agenda, highlighting the importance of institutional resilience and political commitment throughout the accession process.

The analysis emphasises that successful European integration requires not only legislative approximation but also the effective implementation of reforms capable of strengthening institutional capacity, improving public governance and increasing public confidence in democratic institutions. The experience of previous enlargement rounds demonstrates that sustainable reforms depend upon long-term political consensus, administrative professionalism and active cooperation between national authorities, civil society and European institutions.

The paper concludes that the Republic of Moldova possesses significant opportunities to advance its European integration process provided that reform momentum is maintained and institutional transformation continues in accordance with European standards. The accession process should therefore be viewed not only as a political objective but also as a comprehensive framework for democratic consolidation, economic development and the strengthening of the country's resilience within an increasingly complex European and international environment.

Keywords: Republic of Moldova, European Union, EU enlargement, accession process, European integration, institutional reform, democratic governance.

THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, ENLARGEMENT AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE

Angela POPOVICI

PhD, Associate Professor,

Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Romania

Abstract

The European Union is entering a new stage of its development characterised by profound institutional, political and societal transformations. The combined impact of geopolitical instability, security challenges, economic uncertainty and successive crises has intensified debates concerning the future architecture of the European Union, the effectiveness of its institutions and the capacity of its governance system to respond to rapidly changing circumstances. At the same time, the renewed enlargement process has reopened discussions regarding institutional adaptation, democratic legitimacy and the long-term sustainability of the European integration project.

This paper examines the relationship between institutional reform, enlargement policy and democratic resilience as three interconnected dimensions shaping the future development of the European Union. Particular attention is devoted to the functioning of European institutions, decision-making mechanisms, democratic accountability and the need to strengthen institutional capacity in response to both internal and external challenges. The paper also considers the implications of future enlargements for the governance structure of the Union and analyses the reforms required to preserve efficiency, solidarity and policy coherence within an increasingly diverse European community.

The study argues that democratic resilience has become one of the key conditions for the continued success of European integration. Strengthening democratic institutions, safeguarding the rule of law, promoting transparency and reinforcing citizens' trust in European governance are essential prerequisites for ensuring the Union's capacity to manage future crises and maintain political cohesion. In parallel, enlargement should be understood not only as a geopolitical instrument but also as a catalyst for institutional modernisation and democratic consolidation across Europe.

The paper concludes that the future of the European Union will largely depend on its ability to combine institutional reform with democratic resilience while preserving the fundamental values upon which the European project has been built. A flexible, effective and citizen-oriented system of governance will remain essential for strengthening the Union's strategic autonomy, supporting sustainable enlargement and ensuring the long-term stability of European integration.

Keywords: European Union, institutional reform, democratic resilience, enlargement, European governance, rule of law, European integration.

EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES IN TIMES OF MULTIPLE CRISES: FROM RESILIENCE TO STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION

Violeta-Teodora LUNGEANU

PhD, Associate Professor,

Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Romania

Abstract

The European Union has faced an unprecedented succession of crises over the past decade, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war against Ukraine, energy insecurity, migration pressures, climate change and growing geopolitical competition. Rather than addressing these challenges separately, the European Union has increasingly adopted an integrated policy approach aimed at strengthening resilience, improving strategic coordination and enhancing its capacity to respond effectively to a rapidly changing international environment. These developments have accelerated the transformation of European policies and reshaped the Union's strategic priorities.

This paper examines the evolution of European Union policies in the context of multiple and interconnected crises. Particular attention is given to the concept of resilience as a guiding principle of contemporary European governance and to the emergence of strategic autonomy as an increasingly important objective of European policymaking. The analysis explores policy developments in the fields of security, energy,

migration, economic governance, digital transformation and sustainable development, highlighting the growing interdependence between these policy areas.

The paper argues that the experience of successive crises has fundamentally changed the policy-making process within the European Union. Greater emphasis is now placed on policy coordination, institutional flexibility, solidarity among Member States and the capacity to anticipate and manage complex cross-border challenges. At the same time, the European Union seeks to strengthen its global role through a more coherent external policy while preserving its fundamental values, democratic principles and commitment to multilateral cooperation.

The study concludes that resilience should no longer be viewed solely as the ability to recover from crises but as a strategic framework for long-term transformation and sustainable development. The future effectiveness of European Union policies will depend upon the Union's capacity to integrate resilience, innovation and strategic foresight into all major areas of governance, thereby reinforcing its ability to respond successfully to future political, economic and societal challenges.

Keywords: European Union, public policies, resilience, strategic transformation, strategic autonomy, governance, sustainable development.

SESSION I

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN CHALLENGES

Elena MANDAJI

*Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)
Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu State University of Cahul, Republic of Moldova*

Abstract

The European Union is confronted with an increasingly complex range of political, economic, security and societal challenges that require coordinated institutional responses at both the European and national levels. Geopolitical instability, democratic backsliding, migration pressures, digital transformation, climate change and economic uncertainty have significantly influenced the evolution of European governance and highlighted the need for more effective, resilient and adaptable institutional frameworks. These developments have reinforced the importance of institutional capacity as a fundamental condition for the successful implementation of European policies and the preservation of the Union's core values.

This paper analyses the principal institutional mechanisms through which the European Union responds to contemporary challenges. Particular attention is devoted to the role of European institutions in policy coordination, crisis management and democratic governance, as well as to the interaction between supranational decision-making and the responsibilities of Member States. The paper examines recent institutional developments aimed at improving policy coherence, strengthening strategic coordination and increasing the effectiveness of governance in an increasingly dynamic international environment.

The analysis demonstrates that contemporary European challenges require a multidimensional institutional approach combining political cooperation, legal certainty, administrative efficiency and demo-

cratic accountability. Institutional resilience is presented as a key factor supporting the European Union's ability to respond to crises while maintaining the principles of solidarity, transparency and the rule of law. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of continuous institutional adaptation as an essential element of sustainable European integration.

The paper concludes that the future effectiveness of the European Union will largely depend on its capacity to modernise governance structures, strengthen cooperation among European institutions and Member States, and enhance public confidence in democratic decision-making. Institutional innovation and strategic flexibility will remain central to ensuring the long-term resilience and competitiveness of the European integration project.

Keywords: European Union, institutional governance, European institutions, democratic governance, institutional resilience, policy coordination, European integration.

RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Elena BĂDĂDRĂU

PhD, Associate Professor, Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC), State University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

The rule of law constitutes one of the fundamental values of the European Union and represents an essential prerequisite for democratic governance, legal certainty and the protection of fundamental rights. In recent years, the European Union has faced increasing challenges related to democratic backsliding, institutional instability, disinformation, political polarization and external threats to democratic governance. These developments have reinforced the importance of strengthening democratic resilience as a strategic objective for ensuring the sustainability of the European integration process.

This paper examines the relationship between the rule of law and democratic resilience within the European Union. Particular attention is devoted to the mechanisms developed by European institutions to

safeguard common values, monitor compliance with the rule of law and promote democratic accountability across Member States. The analysis explores the role of judicial independence, transparent public administration, effective anti-corruption policies and respect for fundamental rights as essential components of resilient democratic governance.

The paper argues that democratic resilience extends beyond the capacity of institutions to withstand political crises. It also encompasses the ability of societies to preserve democratic values, maintain citizens' trust in public institutions and respond effectively to emerging internal and external challenges. In this context, cooperation among European institutions, Member States and civil society plays a decisive role in reinforcing democratic stability and protecting the constitutional principles upon which the European Union is founded.

The study concludes that the rule of law remains a cornerstone of European integration and a necessary condition for the Union's long-term political stability and institutional effectiveness. Strengthening democratic resilience through institutional reforms, legal certainty and enhanced public participation will continue to be essential for preserving the credibility, unity and future development of the European Union.

Keywords: rule of law, democratic resilience, European Union, democratic governance, judicial independence, fundamental rights, European integration.

DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESILIENCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Marianna STOICA

PhD, Associate Professor,

State University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

Democratic governance represents one of the fundamental principles underpinning the European Union and serves as a key determinant of its political stability, institutional effectiveness and public legitimacy. In an era characterised by geopolitical uncertainty, economic volatility, digital transformation and increasing societal polarization, European institutions are required to strengthen their capacity to respond effec-

tively to complex and rapidly evolving challenges. Consequently, institutional resilience has emerged as an essential element of sustainable governance and the long-term development of the European integration process.

This paper explores the interrelationship between democracy, governance and institutional resilience within the European Union. Particular attention is devoted to the principles of good governance, transparency, accountability, participation and effectiveness as fundamental components of democratic decision-making. The analysis examines how European institutions have adapted their governance mechanisms to address multiple crises while preserving democratic standards, institutional continuity and public trust.

The paper argues that resilient governance depends not only on the formal functioning of institutions but also on their ability to cooperate efficiently, communicate transparently and implement evidence-based public policies. Strengthening democratic participation, promoting institutional accountability and enhancing administrative capacity are identified as essential conditions for improving the quality of governance at both the European and national levels. The study further highlights the importance of coordinated action among European institutions, Member States and civil society in addressing common challenges and safeguarding shared democratic values.

The paper concludes that democracy, effective governance and institutional resilience are mutually reinforcing components of the European integration process. Future reforms should continue to strengthen institutional capacity, improve policy coordination and reinforce citizens' confidence in democratic institutions, thereby ensuring the European Union's ability to respond successfully to future political, economic and societal challenges.

Keywords: democracy, governance, institutional resilience, European Union, good governance, public administration, democratic participation.

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Boris COREȚSCHI

PhD, Associate Professor,

State University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

European integration is a dynamic and continuously evolving process driven by institutional development, political cooperation and the adaptation of governance structures to emerging regional and global challenges. Throughout its history, the European Union has demonstrated a remarkable capacity for institutional transformation, enabling it to respond to successive enlargements, economic crises, geopolitical instability and changing societal expectations. Today, institutional transformation has become an essential prerequisite for strengthening the Union's effectiveness, democratic legitimacy and strategic role in an increasingly complex international environment.

This paper examines the relationship between European integration and institutional transformation from the perspective of contemporary governance. Particular attention is devoted to the evolution of the European Union's institutional architecture, the modernization of decision-making mechanisms and the growing importance of policy coordination among European institutions and Member States. The analysis highlights the role of institutional reforms in improving administrative efficiency, enhancing democratic accountability and reinforcing the Union's capacity to address multidimensional challenges.

The paper argues that institutional transformation should not be perceived merely as a response to crises but as a continuous process supporting the sustainable development of European integration. The capacity of European institutions to innovate, adapt and strengthen cooperation has become increasingly important in ensuring policy coherence, protecting common values and promoting effective governance. At the same time, institutional reforms contribute to increasing public confidence in European decision-making and improving the implementation of common policies across diverse political and economic contexts.

The study concludes that the future of European integration will largely depend on the European Union's ability to maintain a balance between institutional continuity and reform. Strengthening institutional capacity, promoting effective governance and enhancing cooperation among European institutions will remain fundamental conditions for ensuring the long-term resilience, competitiveness and global relevance of the European Union.

Keywords: European integration, institutional transformation, European Union, governance, institutional reform, policy coordination, democratic legitimacy.

POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Maria COMPANEETS

PhD, Associate Professor,

State University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

European integration continues to evolve within an increasingly complex political and institutional environment shaped by geopolitical instability, security threats, economic uncertainty and rapid technological change. These developments have intensified debates concerning the future direction of the European Union and its capacity to maintain political cohesion, institutional effectiveness and democratic legitimacy while responding to multiple internal and external challenges. The continuous adaptation of the European integration process has therefore become essential for preserving the Union's unity and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

This paper examines the principal political and institutional challenges influencing the contemporary development of the European Union. Particular attention is devoted to the evolution of European governance, institutional decision-making, democratic legitimacy and the balance between supranational integration and national sovereignty. The analysis also considers the implications of enlargement, differentiated integration and the growing demand for more flexible governance mechanisms capable of responding to emerging political realities.

The paper argues that political and institutional challenges are closely interconnected and require comprehensive responses based on cooperation, solidarity and effective governance. The increasing diversity of political interests among Member States, together with changing geopolitical circumstances, requires the European Union to strengthen institutional coordination while preserving the principles of democracy, the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights. Institutional reforms should therefore aim not only to improve administrative efficiency but also to reinforce citizens' confidence in European institutions and decision-making processes.

The study concludes that the future of European integration will depend on the European Union's ability to combine political unity with institutional adaptability. Strengthening democratic governance, enhancing policy coordination and promoting constructive dialogue among Member States will remain essential conditions for ensuring the resilience, competitiveness and continued development of the European project in an increasingly dynamic international environment.

Keywords: European integration, European Union, political challenges, institutional governance, democratic legitimacy, institutional reform, European governance.

SESSION II

EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES, GOVERNANCE AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

GREEN TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Ina FILIPOV,

*PhD, Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu State University of Cahul,
Republic of Moldova*

Abstract

The European Green Deal has become one of the European Union's most ambitious strategic initiatives, establishing a comprehensive framework for achieving climate neutrality, sustainable economic growth and environmental protection. The transition towards a green economy is no longer viewed solely as an environmental objective but as a fundamental component of the European Union's long-term competitiveness, resilience and social well-being. In the context of global climate change, energy insecurity and increasing pressure on natural resources, sustainable development has become a central priority of European policymaking.

This paper examines the role of the green transition in promoting sustainable development within the European Union. Particular attention is devoted to the implementation of environmental policies, climate action, energy transition, resource efficiency and the development of a circular economy. The analysis highlights the interdependence between environmental sustainability, economic modernization and social inclusion, demonstrating that the green transition requires coordinated action across multiple policy areas.

The paper argues that successful implementation of the European Green Deal depends upon effective governance, technological innovation, investment in sustainable infrastructure and active participation by public institutions, businesses and civil society. The transition to a low-carbon economy also creates significant opportunities for economic diversification, job creation and technological development while contributing to greater energy independence and long-term environmental resilience.

The study concludes that the green transition represents not only an environmental necessity but also a strategic opportunity for strengthening sustainable development within the European Union. Continued investment in green technologies, institutional cooperation and environmentally responsible public policies will remain essential for achieving climate objectives, improving quality of life and reinforcing the European Union's leadership in global sustainable development.

Keywords: European Green Deal, green transition, sustainable development, climate policy, circular economy, environmental governance, European Union.

ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND COMPETITIVENESS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Vasil CHIRMICI

PhD, Associate Professor,

State University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

Economic governance has become one of the central pillars of the European Union's integration process, particularly in the context of increasing global economic uncertainty, digital transformation and geopolitical instability. The European Union continuously adapts its economic governance framework in order to strengthen macroeconomic stability, enhance competitiveness and promote sustainable economic growth. Recent crises have demonstrated the importance of coordinated economic policies capable of supporting resilience while ensuring long-term prosperity across Member States.

This paper examines the evolution of economic governance within the European Union and its role in strengthening competitiveness. Particular attention is devoted to fiscal coordination, economic policy surveillance, innovation, investment and the functioning of the Single Market. The analysis highlights the relationship between institutional reforms, economic resilience and the achievement of strategic objectives outlined in the European Union's long-term development agenda.

The paper argues that competitiveness should be viewed not only in terms of economic performance but also as the capacity to foster innovation, digitalisation, sustainable development and social cohesion. Effective economic governance requires close coordination among Euro-

pean institutions and Member States, accompanied by evidence-based policymaking and continuous structural reforms.

The study concludes that strengthening economic governance remains essential for enhancing the European Union's resilience, supporting sustainable competitiveness and ensuring balanced economic development within an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Keywords: economic governance, competitiveness, European Union, Single Market, economic resilience, innovation, sustainable growth.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Liliana CECLU

PhD, Associate Professor,

Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu State University of Cahul, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

Digital transformation has become one of the principal priorities of the European Union's strategic agenda, contributing to economic modernization, public sector innovation and sustainable development. At the same time, the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence has created new opportunities for improving productivity, public services and scientific research while raising important ethical, legal and regulatory questions. The European Union seeks to promote a human-centred approach to digitalisation that combines technological innovation with the protection of fundamental rights and democratic values.

This paper analyses the role of digital transformation and artificial intelligence within the European Union's policy framework. Particular attention is devoted to digital governance, innovation ecosystems, data protection, digital skills and the implementation of trustworthy artificial intelligence. The study also examines the importance of common regulatory standards for supporting innovation while ensuring transparency, accountability and cybersecurity.

The paper concludes that successful digital transformation requires coordinated European policies, continuous investment in innovation and education, and effective cooperation among governments, academia and the private sector. Artificial intelligence should therefore be regarded as a strategic instrument supporting sustainable develop-

ment and strengthening the European Union's global competitiveness.

Keywords: digital transformation, artificial intelligence, European Union, digital governance, innovation, digital economy, cybersecurity.

SOCIAL COHESION AND EUROPEAN VALUES

Iurie RUMEUS

PhD, Associate Professor,

Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu State University of Cahul, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

Social cohesion represents one of the fundamental objectives of the European integration process and plays a decisive role in promoting solidarity, equality and inclusive development across the European Union. In recent years, demographic change, migration, economic disparities and social inequalities have created new challenges for maintaining social cohesion while preserving the shared values upon which the European Union is founded. Strengthening social inclusion and protecting fundamental rights therefore remain central priorities of European public policy.

This paper explores the relationship between social cohesion and European values within the framework of sustainable development. Particular attention is devoted to equal opportunities, social inclusion, education, labour market participation and the promotion of democratic citizenship. The analysis highlights the importance of coordinated European policies aimed at reducing inequalities and strengthening social resilience in an increasingly diverse society.

The paper argues that European values—including human dignity, democracy, equality, solidarity and respect for human rights—constitute the normative foundation of social cohesion. Future European policies should therefore continue to promote inclusive growth, active citizenship and equal access to education, employment and social protection.

The study concludes that strengthening social cohesion contributes not only to social stability but also to the long-term sustainability and democratic resilience of the European Union.

Keywords: social cohesion, European values, social inclusion, equality, sustainable development, European Union, democracy.

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND EUROPEAN SECURITY

Larisa TRIFONOV,

PhD, Associate Professor

State University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

Migration and mobility have become defining features of contemporary Europe, creating both opportunities for economic development and significant challenges for public policy and security governance. The European Union has progressively developed a comprehensive migration framework aimed at balancing effective border management, international protection, labour mobility and the safeguarding of fundamental human rights. At the same time, geopolitical instability, armed conflicts and demographic changes have increased the complexity of migration management across Europe.

This paper examines the relationship between migration, mobility and European security from the perspective of contemporary European Union policies. Particular attention is devoted to legal migration, asylum policy, integrated border management and international cooperation. The analysis also considers the role of migration in supporting labour markets while addressing security concerns through coordinated European governance.

The paper argues that migration should be understood as a multidimensional phenomenon requiring balanced and evidence-based policies that combine humanitarian principles with effective security measures. Strengthening cooperation among Member States and neighbouring countries remains essential for ensuring sustainable migration governance and reinforcing European security.

The study concludes that an integrated migration policy based on solidarity, responsibility and respect for human rights represents an important condition for strengthening both social stability and the long-term resilience of the European Union.

Keywords: migration, mobility, European Union, security, asylum policy, border management, migration governance.

EU ENLARGEMENT AND THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

Angela CEBAN,

PhD, Associate Professor

State University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Abstract

The renewed enlargement policy of the European Union has significantly increased the strategic importance of the Eastern Neighbourhood in the context of contemporary geopolitical developments. The accession perspectives of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and other partner countries have strengthened the role of enlargement as an instrument for promoting peace, democratic governance, economic modernization and regional stability. These developments have also highlighted the need for deeper political cooperation and institutional convergence between the European Union and its eastern partners.

This paper examines the relationship between the European Union's enlargement policy and the development of the Eastern Neighbourhood. Particular attention is devoted to political association, economic integration, institutional reforms and the implementation of European standards within partner countries. The analysis explores both the opportunities created by closer integration and the challenges associated with governance reforms, regional security and sustainable development.

The paper argues that enlargement should be viewed as a long-term strategic process extending beyond accession negotiations. Effective implementation of reforms, strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing institutional capacity remain essential prerequisites for successful European integration. The Eastern Neighbourhood therefore occupies an increasingly important place within the European Union's broader strategic vision.

The study concludes that continued cooperation between the European Union and its eastern partners will contribute to strengthening regional stability, democratic resilience and sustainable development while reinforcing the European integration process across the wider European continent.

Keywords: European Union, enlargement, Eastern Neighbourhood, Republic of Moldova, European integration, governance, regional cooperation.

AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

The present Book of Abstracts brings together the scientific contributions presented at the International Scientific Conference “**The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges**”, organised on 16 May 2025 within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC) Project No. 101126909 – “**Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union.**”

The authors and contributors represent academic institutions from the Republic of Moldova and Romania and reflect the interdisciplinary character of the conference. Their research interests and contributions cover a broad range of issues related to European integration, institutional development, democratic governance, economic transformation, sustainability, digitalisation, migration, security and EU enlargement.

Elena BĂDĂDRĂU

PhD, Associate Professor

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
(JMCoE-USC)

Conference contribution:

Rule of Law and Democratic Resilience in the European Union

The contribution focuses on the relationship between the rule of law and democratic resilience within the European Union, with particular attention to judicial independence, transparent public administration, anti-corruption policies, fundamental rights and institutional accountability.

Vitalie CAZACU

PhD, Associate Professor

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
(JMCoE-USC)

Conference contribution:

The Republic of Moldova on the Path towards European Union Membership: Opportunities, Challenges and Lessons Learned

The contribution examines the Republic of Moldova's European integration process, focusing on the opportunities and challenges associated with EU accession, institutional reform, implementation of the EU acquis, economic modernisation and the strengthening of democratic governance.

Angela CEBAN

PhD, Associate Professor

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

EU Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood

The contribution analyses the relationship between the renewed enlargement policy of the European Union and the changing role of the Eastern Neighbourhood, with particular attention to political association, institutional convergence, economic integration and regional stability.

Liliana CECLU

PhD, Associate Professor

Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”, Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence in the European Union

The contribution addresses digital transformation and artificial intelligence within the European Union, highlighting digital governance, innovation, data protection, digital skills, cybersecurity and the development of trustworthy artificial intelligence.

Vasil CHIRMICI

PhD, Associate Professor

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

Economic Governance and Competitiveness in the European Union

The contribution examines the evolution of economic governance in the European Union and its relationship with competitiveness, economic resilience, innovation, investment and the functioning of the Single Market.

Maria COMPANEETS

PhD, Associate Professor

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

Political and Institutional Challenges of European Integration

The contribution explores the principal political and institutional challenges affecting contemporary European integration, including European governance, democratic legitimacy, enlargement, differentiated integration and the relationship between supranational governance and national sovereignty.

Boris COREȚSCHI

PhD, Associate Professor

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

European Integration and Institutional Transformation

The contribution examines the relationship between European integration and institutional transformation, focusing on institutional architecture, decision-making mechanisms, policy coordination, administrative effectiveness and democratic accountability.

Valentina CORNEA

PhD, Associate Professor

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
(JMCoE-USC)

University of Galați, Romania

Conference contribution:

The European Union in a New Geopolitical Environment: Political and Institutional Challenges for the Future of European Integration

The contribution analyses the political and institutional challenges confronting the European Union in a changing geopolitical environment, with particular attention to institutional reform, enlargement, democratic governance, strategic autonomy and resilience.

Ina FILIPOV

PhD, Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”, Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

Green Transition and Sustainable Development

The contribution examines the role of the European Green Deal and the green transition in promoting sustainable development, addressing climate policy, energy transition, resource efficiency, technological innovation and the circular economy.

Violeta-Teodora LUNGEANU

PhD, Associate Professor

Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Romania

Conference contribution:

European Union Policies in Times of Multiple Crises: From Resilience to Strategic Transformation

The contribution analyses the evolution of European Union policies in response to multiple interconnected crises, focusing on resilience, strategic coordination, security, energy, migration, digital transformation and sustainable development.

Elena MANDAJI

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)

Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”,
Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

Institutional Responses to Contemporary European Challenges

The contribution examines the institutional mechanisms through which the European Union responds to contemporary political, economic, security and societal challenges, with particular emphasis on policy coordination, institutional resilience and democratic accountability.

Angela POPOVICI

PhD, Associate Professor

Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Romania

Conference contribution:

The Future of the European Union: Institutional Reform, Enlargement and Democratic Resilience

The contribution explores the relationship between institutional reform, enlargement policy and democratic resilience as interconnected dimensions influencing the future development of the European Union.

Iurie RUMEUS

PhD, Associate Professor

Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”,

Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

Social Cohesion and European Values

The contribution examines the relationship between social cohesion and European values, with particular attention to social inclusion, equality, education, labour-market participation, democratic citizenship and sustainable development.

Marianna STOICA

PhD, Associate Professor

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

Democracy, Governance and Institutional Resilience in the European Union

The contribution analyses the interrelationship between democracy, governance and institutional resilience, focusing on transparency, accountability, participation, administrative capacity and citizens' confidence in democratic institutions.

Larisa TRIFONOV

PhD, Associate Professor

Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Conference contribution:

Migration, Mobility and European Security

The contribution examines migration and mobility within the framework of contemporary European Union policies, focusing on legal migration, asylum, labour mobility, border management, international cooperation and European security.

CONFERENCE COORDINATION AND EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTION

Ludmila GOLOVATAIA, PhD

Associate Professor

Project Coordinator, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
(JMCoE-USC)

Editor-in-Chief of the Book of Abstracts

Elena BĂDĂDRĂU, PhD

Associate Professor

Member of the Editorial Team

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
(JMCoE-USC)

Valentina CORNEA, PhD

Associate Professor

Member of the Editorial Team

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
(JMCoE-USC)

Vitalie CAZACU, PhD

Associate Professor

Member of the Editorial Team

Elena MANDAJI, PhD

Member of the Editorial Team

Representative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
(JMCoE-USC)

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP DIRECTIONS

The International Scientific Conference “The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges”, held on 16 May 2025, provided an academic platform for analysing the transformations currently affecting the European Union and the wider European integration process. The discussions developed during the Plenary Session, the two thematic sessions and the concluding Panel Discussion demonstrated that contemporary European challenges are increasingly interconnected and require interdisciplinary approaches combining political, institutional, economic, social, technological and security perspectives.

The conference confirmed the growing relevance of European Studies in a period characterised by geopolitical uncertainty, renewed enlargement, institutional adaptation and profound economic and technological transformation. The contributions presented by the participants highlighted not only the challenges confronting the European Union, but also the changing nature of European integration itself. The EU is increasingly required to combine internal institutional development with external strategic responsibilities, while candidate and neighbouring countries face the parallel task of adapting their institutions, economies and public policies to an evolving European environment.

Main Scientific Outcomes

One of the principal outcomes of the conference was the recognition that institutional resilience and effective governance have become central dimensions of European integration. The ability of European and national institutions to respond to crises, implement policies and maintain public confidence is increasingly important in an environment shaped by geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and rapid technological change.

The discussions also emphasised the continuing importance of the rule of law, democratic governance and fundamental European values. Institutional adaptation and policy effectiveness cannot be considered independently of democratic legitimacy, transparency, accountability and the protection of fundamental rights. These principles remain essential both for the internal development of the European

Union and for countries progressing towards closer integration with the EU.

A further important outcome concerned the renewed significance of EU enlargement. Enlargement has returned to the centre of the European agenda and is increasingly connected with questions of security, stability and the geopolitical future of the continent. The European perspectives of the Republic of Moldova and other candidate countries demonstrate that enlargement is not only a technical process of legislative alignment, but also a broader process of institutional, economic and societal transformation.

In this context, particular attention was given to the European integration of the Republic of Moldova. The country's transition towards candidate status and accession negotiations has created new opportunities for institutional modernisation, economic integration and participation in European programmes and policies. At the same time, the process places greater demands on administrative capacity, implementation of reforms, economic competitiveness and the ability of institutions to apply European standards effectively.

The conference further demonstrated that contemporary European integration increasingly depends on the interaction between economic competitiveness, sustainability and technological transformation. The green transition, digitalisation and artificial intelligence are reshaping European economies and public institutions. These developments create opportunities for innovation and productivity growth but also generate new regulatory, ethical and social challenges.

Another important conclusion emerging from the conference concerned the human and social dimension of European integration. Migration, mobility, demographic change, social cohesion and access to opportunities directly influence the sustainability of economic and institutional reforms. European integration therefore cannot be analysed exclusively through legislation, institutions or markets; its long-term effectiveness also depends on its capacity to generate tangible benefits for citizens and communities.

The contributions dealing with migration, security and resilience also highlighted the increasingly close relationship between internal and external dimensions of European policy. Migration management, cybersecurity, energy security, disinformation and geopolitical instability cross national borders and require cooperation between Europe-

an institutions, Member States, candidate countries and neighbouring partners.

Taken together, the scientific contributions confirmed that the future development of the European Union will depend on its ability to combine institutional effectiveness, democratic legitimacy, economic competitiveness, technological innovation, social cohesion and external resilience.

Follow-up Research Directions

The conference discussions identified several areas that merit further academic attention and can provide a basis for future research initiatives.

A first direction concerns the institutional implications of future EU enlargement. Further research is needed on how enlargement may affect decision-making mechanisms, institutional balance, differentiated integration and the relationship between national and European levels of governance.

A second research direction relates to the European integration of candidate countries, particularly the Republic of Moldova. Future studies may examine the implementation of the EU *acquis*, administrative capacity, economic convergence, sectoral integration and the relationship between formal accession requirements and the practical results of reforms.

Particular attention should also be devoted to the transformation of the Eastern Neighbourhood in the context of renewed enlargement. The changing status of several Eastern European countries raises questions concerning the future relationship between neighbourhood policy, enlargement policy, regional cooperation and European security.

Another important direction concerns the interaction between the green and digital transitions. Research can contribute to a better understanding of how environmental objectives, technological innovation and economic competitiveness can be combined, particularly in smaller economies and candidate countries facing significant investment and institutional constraints.

The rapid development of artificial intelligence creates an additional field for interdisciplinary research. Its application in public administration, education, economic activity and security requires analysis of both potential benefits and risks, including issues of regulation,

transparency, ethics, data protection and institutional capacity.

Further research is also needed on migration, mobility and human capital. For the Republic of Moldova and other countries experiencing significant outward migration, particular relevance should be given to the relationship between European mobility, labour-market transformation, demographic trends, skills development and the potential contribution of diaspora communities.

Finally, the changing geopolitical environment reinforces the importance of research on European resilience and security. Energy security, cybersecurity, hybrid threats, disinformation and the resilience of democratic institutions are likely to remain important areas of European research and policy debate.

Strengthening Academic Cooperation

Beyond the presentation of individual research results, the conference contributed to strengthening academic dialogue and cooperation in the field of European Studies. Bringing together researchers working on different aspects of European integration created opportunities for exchanging methodological approaches, identifying common research interests and developing future academic cooperation.

Such cooperation is particularly important for universities and research institutions from the Republic of Moldova. The accession process increases the demand for expertise on European policies, institutions and legislation and creates new possibilities for participation in European research and educational networks. Academic institutions can contribute to this process through research, teaching, public dialogue and the dissemination of evidence-based knowledge about the European Union.

Future cooperation may include joint research, scientific publications, conferences, seminars, educational activities and participation in European academic networks and projects. Interdisciplinary cooperation should be encouraged, particularly where political and institutional research intersects with economics, migration, security, digital transformation, sustainability and public administration.

The involvement of early-career researchers, doctoral students and students in European Studies activities can further contribute to the sustainability of this academic field. Developing research skills and

knowledge of European institutions and policies is important not only for academic development but also for strengthening the professional expertise required during the Republic of Moldova's European integration process.

Continuing the Academic Dialogue

The conference demonstrated that the transformation of the European Union and the changing nature of European integration create a continuing need for academic analysis and informed public discussion. The complexity of current developments makes sustained dialogue between researchers, universities, public institutions and other stakeholders particularly valuable.

The International Scientific Conference organised within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC) should therefore be viewed as part of a broader process of knowledge development and academic cooperation rather than as an isolated event. The research presented during the conference provides a foundation for further analysis of European political and institutional transformation and for continued scientific cooperation in the field of European Studies.

The Book of Abstracts contributes to this process by preserving and disseminating the principal ideas presented during the conference. At the same time, the issues identified during the discussions provide a basis for future research, educational activities and academic initiatives.

Continuing this dialogue is particularly relevant at a time when the European Union is undergoing significant internal and external transformation and the Republic of Moldova is advancing along its European path. Sustained research, academic cooperation and knowledge exchange can contribute to a deeper understanding of these developments and support the continued development of European Studies in the Republic of Moldova and beyond.

Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union
Project No. 101126909
Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS
International Scientific Conference
“The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New
Political and Institutional Challenges”
16 May 2025
Cahul, Republic of Moldova

PROJECT COORDINATOR
Ludmila Golovataia, PhD
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
This publication was prepared within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC) **“Strengthening and Sharing Knowledge about the European Union”**, Project No. 101126909, co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ Programme.

DISCLAIMER
Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

© 2025 Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)

Descrierea CIP a Camerei Naționale a Cărții din Republica Moldova

“The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges”, international scientific conference (2025 ; Cahul). International Scientific Conference “The Evolution of the European Union in the Context of New Political and Institutional Challenges”, 16 may 2025, Cahul, Republic of Moldova : Book of Abstracts / project coordinator: Ludmila Golovataia. – Chișinău : Print-Caro, 2026. – 60 p.

Cerințe de sistem: PDF Reader.

Antetit.: Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC).

ISBN 978-5-85748-546-0 (PDF).

Text : electronic.