Jean Monnet
Centre of Excellence
JMCOE–USC

Cahul State University
"B.P. Hasdeu"

Funded by
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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

THE EVOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

27 March 2026 | Cahul, Republic of Moldova | Hybrid format

Working languages: Romanian and English

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Ideas. Dialogue. A Stronger Europe.



Organised within the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCOE–USC)
Project No. 101126909 – Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions

Chișinău
2026

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

09:00–09:30
REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS
Registration of participants and online connection.

09:30–09:50
OFFICIAL OPENING

Welcome addresses
Representative of Cahul State University "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu"

Ludmila GOLOVATAIA, PhD
Project Coordinator, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCoE-USC)
Representatives of partner academic institutions and invited guests

09:50–11:00

PLENARY SESSION
The European Union in a Changing Political, Institutional and Geopolitical Environment

Moderator: Elena MANDAJI, PhD Candidate, University Lecturer
Member of the JMCoE-USC Project Team

1. Ludmila GOLOVATAIA, PhD, Associate Professor
Project Coordinator, JMCoE-USC
The European Union at a Turning Point: Enlargement, Institutional Transformation and the Future of European Integration
Uniunea Europeană la un punct de cotitură: extindere, transformare instituțională și viitorul integrării europene

2. Prof. Ing. Ľudmila LIPKOVÁ, CSc.,
Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín, Slovakia
Online participation
Slovakia's Experience of European Integration: Institutional and Economic Transformation and Lessons for EU Candidate Countries

Experiența Slovaciei în procesul de integrare europeană: transformarea instituțională și economică și lecții pentru țările candidate la aderarea la UE

3. **Vitalie CAZACU, PhD, Associate Professor**
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

Economic Convergence and EU Accession: Challenges for Candidate Countries in the New Enlargement Context

Convergența economică și aderarea la UE: provocări pentru țările candidate în noul context al extinderii

11:00–11:20
COFFEE BREAK

11:20–12:50

SESSION I
EU ENLARGEMENT, INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE EUROPEAN PATH OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Main Thematic Directions:

- EU enlargement and institutional transformation
- The Republic of Moldova's EU accession process
- Alignment with the EU acquis and administrative capacity
- Rule of law, democracy and European values
- The Eastern Partnership and the changing Eastern Neighbourhood

Moderator:
Elena BĂDĂDRĂU, PhD, Associate Professor
Member of the JMCoE-USC Project Team

Valentina CORNEA, PhD, Associate Professor
"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati, Romania
Online participation

Parcursul european al Republicii Moldova: oportunități și provocări în noua etapă a procesului de aderare

The European Path of the Republic of Moldova: Opportunities and Challenges in the New Stage of the EU Accession Process

Elena MANDAJI, PhD Candidate, University Lecturer
"Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" State University of Cahul

Universities as actors of european integration: the role of higher education in the institutional transformation of the Republic of Moldova

Universitățile ca actori ai integrării europene: rolul învățământului superior în transformarea instituțională a Republicii Moldova

Angela SESTACOVSCHI, PhD, Associate Professor
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova
Online participation

The Republic of Moldova on the Path to EU Membership: Progress, Challenges and Priorities of the Accession Process

Republica Moldova pe calea aderării la UE: progrese, provocări și priorități ale procesului de aderare

Elena PODARI, PhD, Associate Professor
Free International University of Moldova (ULIM)
Online participation

European Integration at the Local Level: The Role of Public Administration in Preparing Moldova for EU Membership

Integrarea europeană la nivel local: rolul administrației publice în pregătirea Republicii Moldova pentru aderarea la UE

12:50–13:50
LUNCH BREAK

14:00–16:30

SESSION II
EUROPEAN SECURITY, RESILIENCE AND GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES

Main Thematic Directions:

- European security and defence
- Geopolitical transformations and the future of Europe
- Hybrid threats, cybersecurity and disinformation
- Energy security and strategic resilience
- Migration, borders and European security
- Regional security and the geopolitical implications of the war in Ukraine

Moderator:
Elena MANDAJI, PhD Candidate, University Lecturer
Member of the JMCoE-USC Project Team

Ludmila GOLOVATAIA, PhD, Associate Professor
Project Coordinator, JMCoE-USC

Migration, Borders and Security in the European Union: New Challenges and Policy Responses

Migrația, frontierele și securitatea în Uniunea Europeană: noi provocări și răspunsuri la nivel de politici

Liliana BENIUC, PhD, Associate Professor
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova
Online participation

European Security in a Changing Geopolitical Environment: New Challenges for the European Union

Securitatea europeană într-un mediu geopolitic în schimbare: noi provocări pentru Uniunea Europeană

Elena BĂDĂDRĂU, PhD, Associate Professor
Member of the JMCoE-USC Project Team

Hybrid Threats and Disinformation as Challenges to European Democratic Resilience

Amenințările hibride și dezinformarea ca provocări pentru reziliența democratică europeană

Igor GOLOVATÎI, MA in International Trade
Member of the JMCoE-USC Project Team

Energy Security and Strategic Resilience of the European Union in the Context of Geopolitical Instability

Securitatea energetică și reziliența strategică a Uniunii Europene în contextul instabilității geopolitice

Tatiana BUJOR, PhD, Associate Professor
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova
Online participation

The Republic of Moldova in the European Security Environment: Vulnerabilities, Resilience and European Integration

Republica Moldova în mediul european de securitate: vulnerabilități, reziliență și integrare europeană

Discussion

16:30–17:00
COFFEE BREAK

17:00–18:00

SESSION III
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Main thematic directions:

- European economic integration and the Single Market
- Economic convergence and competitiveness of candidate countries
- Investment, innovation and regional development
- Green transition, sustainable development and energy transformation
- Digital transformation and artificial intelligence in the European economy
- Human capital, labour mobility and social cohesion

Moderator:
Igor GOLOVATÎI, MA in International Trade
Member of the JMCoE-USC Project Team

Boris CORETSCHI, PhD, Associate Professor
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova
Online participation

SME Access to the EU Single Market: Regulatory and Competitiveness Challenges for the Republic of Moldova

Accesul IMM-urilor la Piața Unică a UE: provocări de reglementare și competitivitate pentru Republica Moldova

Angela CEBAN, PhD, Associate Professor
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova
Online participation

EU Green Standards and the Competitiveness of Moldovan Exporters: Adaptation Challenges and Market Opportunities

Standardele ecologice ale UE și competitivitatea exportatorilor din Republica Moldova: provocări de adaptare și oportunități de piață

Jasmina BADARAU, MA in REI
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova
Online participation

Artificial Intelligence Adoption by SMEs: Opportunities for Productivity and Competitiveness in the European Market

Adoptarea inteligenței artificiale de către IMM-uri: oportunități pentru productivitate și competitivitate pe piața europeană

Discussion

18:00–18:30

CLOSING PANEL
THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Discussion Topics:

- The future of EU enlargement and the European integration of the Republic of Moldova
- Political, economic and security challenges shaping the future of the European Union
- New priorities for European Studies and opportunities for academic cooperation

Moderator:
Valentina CORNEA, PhD, Associate Professor
Member of the JMCoE-USC Project Team

Vitalie CAZACU, PhD, Associate Professor
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova
The Future of EU Enlargement: Opportunities and Challenges for Candidate Countries
Viitorul extinderii UE: oportunități și provocări pentru țările candidate

Liudmila TOBAROVA, PhD, Associate Professor
Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova
Online participation
The European Union in a Changing World: Priorities for Resilience, Competitiveness and Sustainable Development
Uniunea Europeană într-o lume în schimbare: priorități pentru reziliență, competitivitate și dezvoltare durabilă

18:30

CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

Closing Remarks: Ludmila GOLOVATAIA, PhD, Associate Professor
Project Coordinator, JMCoE-USC