



Bulletin No. 2 of Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are delighted to present the second Bulletin prepared by Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań *EU External Actions in the contested global order – (in)coherence, (dis)continuity, resilience (EU EX/ACT)*.

In the Bulletin, we provide you with information about activities implemented during spring semester and activities planned for the second years of the Centre of Excellence and we present the most interesting political problems related to the subject implemented within the Centre of Excellence.

Prof. Tadeusz Wallas

Coordinator

I. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE DURING THE LAST 6 MONTHS

1. Academic courses provided by the Centre of Excellence EU EX/ACT

In the summer semester of the 2018/2019 academic year, courses for students were conducted within the subject of the Center of Excellence. Most of the completed classes were conducted in Polish, but 3 of 9 courses were conducted in English. Some didactic classes were conducted as part of e-learning, which enabled students to have more interactive classes. The following courses were conducted: *Foreign Policy of the EU after the Lisbon Treaty* by prof. Beata Przybylska – Maszner, *The EU's political cooperation with Eastern Partnership countries* by prof. Tadeusz Wallas, *EU cooperation with Russia* by prof. Andrzej Stelmach, *Crisis in Europe and in its close and distant neighbourhood – danger for the coherence of the EU's external actions?* by Prof. Zbigniew Czachór, *EU economic cooperation with East Asia* by prof. Maciej Walkowski, *The European Union and the external borders – between debordering and rebordering* by prof. Jarosław Jańczak and in English: *Direct democracy in the European Union and the EU's neighbouring countries* by prof. Magdalena Musiał-Karg, *The EU's strategic partners – political and economic relations with the United States* by doctor Joanna Skrzypczyńska

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and *Economic, cultural and science diplomacy of the EU and Member States. Towards a normative global order* by doctor Adam Jaskulski.

2. Meeting and lecture for high school students and teachers and general public

Beata Przybylska – Maszner conducted on 26 March a lecture entitled “European Union as an actor in international relations” for secondary students in Ostrów Wielkopolski, a former voivodship city on the South of Wielkopolska Region in which took part about 50 participants. The aim of this lecture was to expand the knowledge about the Common Foreign and Security Policy. This was related to the issue of various forms of EU’s foreign policy’s instruments and external solidarity mechanisms. The main goal was not only to understand and explain how these mechanisms work, but also to answer the question about the perspectives of strengthening of the EU’s role in the global order. The participants of the event had the opportunity to get to know the functioning of the EU foreign policy’ instruments. The main aim of the lecture was to analyze the role of the EU in international order and expand knowledge about current events in the neighbourhood of the EU in the context of creating external relations.

3. The 6th International Interdisciplinary Academic Conference in Vilnius

Prof. Maciej Walkowski took part in 6th International Interdisciplinary Academic Conference, “From the Union of Lublin to the European Union and ... (historical, socio-political, legal and cultural aspects)” organized by the Association of Polish Scientists in Lithuania on 25–27 April 2019

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Prof. Walkowski had moderated on of the panels together with presentation of the



research paper: Chinese geopolitical strategy "Belt and Road" from the perspective of EU Member States from Central and Eastern Europe. Analysis of opportunities and threats.

The presentation of the research problem resulted in the exchange of experiences between Polish and Lithuanian academics with regard to the principles of Chinese presence in Eastern Europe in commercial, investment and political terms. Particular attention was paid on the benefits and costs associated with the Belt and Road initiative and the problem of an integral position of the entire EU towards China's geopolitical strategy.

4. Other actions taken by the Centre of Excellence

During the summer semester of the 2019 academic year, we also carried out other activities.

About 45 students and scholars from various academic programs participated on March 11, 2019 in the guest lecture of Prof. John Robertson from Texas A&M University, Texas, US, who was talking about "Fear, Loathing, and Loss in Understanding and the Role of Alienation and the Trump Phenomenon. Consequences for Transatlantic Relations".

At the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism was also organized seminar: "The interests of the Republic of Poland in the Middle East in the light of the current developments in this region" conducted by Krzysztof Płomiński, mostly devoted for the employees and students of the Faculty. It was an occasion for the discussion about very complicated situation in this region.

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Centre Coordinator prof. Tadeusz Wallas met with high school students from Opalenica, hosting students at the headquarters of the Faculty of Political Sciences and Journalism of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. During the meeting professor Wallas presented actions taken in the framework of Jean Monnet Centre and the idea of whole project.

Professor Maciej Walkowski visited the students of the First High School in Ostrów Wielkopolski and discussed with students the problems of the common currency Euro and the prospects for Poland to adopt the single currency.

II. ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

1. International Conference “PROSPECTS FOR RESEARCH IN THE AREA OF EXTERNAL ACTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION”, 22-23 October 2019 in Poznan

One of the most important aspects of Centre activity is conducting research in the area of the Centre topics. An opportunity to fulfil this task are conference organized by Adam Mickiewicz University. We would like to invite researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders attend the conference **“Prospects for research in the area of external actions of the European Union”**.

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The goal of the conference is to provide a platform for the exchange of opinions and views and for the presentation of research on the EU external activities, with emphasis on the EU Global Strategy 2016 in the field of foreign policy and security.

The topics of the conference will focus on the following issues:

- An impact of institutional changes in the EU on the shape of its external relations.
- Internal and external determinants of the EU's external activities.
- Implementation of the EU Global Strategy.
- The future directions and priorities of the EU foreign affairs
- Brexit
- Poland's approach towards reforms proposed in the field of the EU's external activities.

More information and the application form can be found on the website of the Centre of Excellence.

2. III International Conference "Beyond Europe: Towards a New Global Order"

We would to invite you all to join us during the third edition of the international conference organised by the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism along with the Department of Non-European Political Studies, Department of International Relations and Department of International Economy titled "Beyond Europe: Towards a New Global Order" on behalf of the Faculty's Dean, Prof. Andrzej Stelmach and coordinator of Jean Monnet CoE Prof. Tadeusz Wallas. The Conference Beyond Europe will be held on December 5-6, 2019.

The conference panels will be organised within the framework of this international conference under the auspices of the CoE addressing the following topic:

"The EU's impact on political systems in the 21st century" (liberal democracy in the 21st century, opportunities and threats; non-democratic systems and their future; the evolution of democracy – hopes and threats; fallen states in Africa and Asia and their systemic problems; the problem of succession in Central Asian states; from communism to capitalism: the evolution of the PRC political system, Chinese "authoritarian state capitalism" model and the problem of its global popularity).

We believe that the conference is a unique opportunity to openly discuss the latest advancements in many politics-related disciplines and exchange views on current issues connected with the apparent shift in global politics that happens right before our eyes. We believe this year's subject list make the conference an overall very promising and interesting event.

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3. Scientific and publishing activities

Centres of Excellence are units that carry out activities in various areas. In addition to promotional and popularizing activities, research and development activities are as well very important element.

Therefore, scientific publications are currently prepared. On the one hand a book, in which members of the research team will publish the results of research on the EU's activities in its closest neighborhood, which neighborhood is becoming an increasingly difficult environment for the EU, is being prepared. In addition, members of the research team prepare scientific articles that will be published in prominent scientific journals. The results of the research will also be disseminated through the website of the Centre of Excellence.

4. Annual XX Europeanist conference in Słubice

The 20th conference in the "Europe of the 21st Century" series will be organized in Słubice on February 6-7, 2020. The conference will endeavour to identify and assess the significance of the determinants – in particular the present and future threats – of the peaceful and harmonious development of Europe, the European Union and its member states. This will provide a foundation for conclusions and forecasts that should help overcome crises and foster rapid future development. The conference thereby will provide a platform for an exchange of opinions and views, for the presentation of the results of studies into the contemporary problems of the Old Continent, and in particular into the phenomena and processes that influence the current condition and quality of different dimensions of social life in Europe. It will be a meeting not only of scientists, but also of politicians, local government officials, students and representatives of public opinion. About 200 people from around the world will take part in the conference. In the framework of CoE will be organize a special panel "EUROPE GOES GLOBAL" will aim to analyse, evaluate and forecast the socio-economic situation of the EU, with particular emphasis given to international initiatives of the EU and its global aspirations to become the "global economic super-power." A significant element of the panel will involve discussions on the INCOHERENCE of EU member states and of relations between the European Commission and member state governments as concerns the directions of closer economic cooperation of the EU and the world, named the "USA or PRC Global Dilemma." On the one hand, the negotiations with the United States on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were stopped until further notice at the end of 2016. Both sides need to clarify if there is a sufficient level of shared ambition and common ground before deciding whether and how to proceed with new negotiations. On the other hand, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Central Asia and Southeast Asia in September and October of 2013. He raised the initiative of jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (hereinafter referred to as the Belt and Road), which have attracted close attention from all over the world. The One Belt and One Road Initiative (OBOR) is a Chinese systematic project, which should be jointly built through consultation to ***The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.***



meet the interests of all, and efforts should be made to integrate the development strategies of the countries along the Belt and Road.

III. THE MOST INTERESTING POLICY PROBLEMS IN EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS

1. A new strategic program

The European Council at its June meeting decided to adopt the New Strategic Program for 2019-2024, which "defines the general framework and direction of our activities. It aims to provide guidelines for the work of EU institutions over the next five years. "The program is based on four pillars: protecting citizens and freedoms • developing a strong and vibrant economic base • building a climate neutral, ecological, fair and social Europe • promoting European interests and values on the world stage.

The awareness of a permanent security crisis is very noticeable in New Strategic Programme, both internally and externally. At the same time, throughout the entire program, security is at the forefront of EU activity as a key element in ensuring the survival of the European Union. Leaders are aware that citizens will blame the EU for its negligence in this area.

In the future, European security is to be based much more on the EU's and Member States' own capabilities to protect their own interests and lifestyles. Such a clear declaration of building autonomous defense capabilities must be seen through the prism of tensions in transatlantic relations with the United States and Britain's leaving the European Union.

At the same time, the European Union confirms the continuation of foreign policy and all international cooperation according to the current rules, including multilateralism, announcing, however, harder enforcement of certain decisions. The EU will continue to promote its own unique cooperation model as an inspiration for other international actors. Importantly, the problem of divisions within the EU is perceived, which are counterproductive in conducting a common foreign policy.

Climate security is one of the specific areas of EU security. In this area, the need to strengthen international cooperation is particularly recognized because of the global nature of climate security challenges.

2. Brexit

Due to the ratification problems of the UK withdrawal agreement with the EU and the request of former Prime Minister Theresa May to extend the negotiation period, a new deadline for Great Britain's exit from the EU was formally set, at the latest on October 31, 2019. The extension of Britain's membership has also led to the need to hold elections to the European Parliament in that country. At the same time, the Union stresses that it is not possible to renegotiate the Withdrawal Agreement, and that the period of renewal of membership will also not be time to negotiate a framework for new relations between the EU and the United Kingdom, after the withdrawal of this

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State. However, it allows for the possibility of discussing a political declaration regarding future relations should the position of Great Britain change.

The EU underlines the need for Great Britain to comply strictly with EU law during the extended membership period.

3. Relations with Russia

The relations between the European Union and Russia have remained very tense since 2014 due to Russia's involvement in the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea by the Russian authorities. This is an unprecedented conflict in Europe after the fall of communism. Despite the Russian commitments contained in the Minsk agreements, the Russian authorities are still taking further action against Ukraine, which results in violation of international law, and thus in fact aggravates the existing conflict. Therefore, despite discussions and voices in favor of lifting the EU sanctions against Russia, they are still extended by the Member States.

4. Disinformation and hybrid treats

The European Union continues fight with hybrid and cyber threats and plan actions which will strengthen resilience of Member States and EU democracies to disinformation. Current activities are focused on controlling obligations placed by online platforms, which should to lead to the elimination of disinformation from the Internet space, which is the easiest platform for the dissemination of disinformation among the EU citizens. An important element of activities in this area is deepened international cooperation and the development of new instruments for responding to threats in this area of security of the Member States and the EU.