



Photo source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Europe, whole and free

On the 9th of November 2009 we celebrate 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, a symbol of a half of century of Cold War.

The rise of the Iron Curtain and the fall of the Berlin Wall speak to us today about an episode of intense political upheaval in the history of Europe.

Starting with the first piece, the victory of the *Solidarność* movement in Poland, right until the moment of the Romanian revolution, the domino of a world marked by the "ideology of oppression" crumbled all along Eastern and Central Europe.

Various events and cultural manifestations are organised in cities throughout Europe to celebrate the rise of the Iron Curtain. It is time to discover, celebrate and remember, 1989-2009.

<http://www.europa1989-2009.eu/celebrate.htm>

Liberty, 20 years later

At present, European citizens enjoy the freedom to travel, work and study in 27 countries. The leaders of a united Europe still strive to enshrine the Union as a space of peace, stability, solidarity and prosperity.

The division lines separating Europeans 20 years ago no longer exist today. The challenges facing the European Union now are, nevertheless, more diverse and more subtle, going from protectionism to the religious dimension and the "fear of the other".

Twenty years later, no European is allowed to underestimate the value of what was achieved in 1989.

Iulia Serafimescu

Analysis and European Studies

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A subject which is increasingly debated within the European Union is the necessity to reinforce the cooperation at the Black Sea. However, there is criticism regarding the overlapping of initiatives or the lack of concrete results. Which are, in your opinion, the main challenges of the cooperation in the Black Sea area at present?

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E.S. SERGIU CELAC

Ambassador, Senior Advisor at the National Centre for Sustainable Development
Former Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs

The European Union at the Black Sea *All engines are running and concrete results will soon appear*



A subject which is increasingly debated within the European Union is the necessity to reinforce the cooperation at the Black Sea. However, there is criticism regarding the overlapping of initiatives or the lack of concrete results. Which are, in your opinion, the main challenges of the cooperation in the Black Sea area at present?

The impediments to a more extended multilateral collaboration on a regional level are, firstly, of political nature. Almost all the tension and conflict focal points in Europe, active or latent are concentrated in the extended area of the Black Sea. The fact that they are deliberately maintained and that equitable solutions are delayed diminishes the efficiency of the real efforts made to promote a constructive regionalism. Only for the last few years has the EU started to acknowledge the major long term interests it has in this region, but now all engines are running and concrete results will soon appear.

In this context, what role can be played today by the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation?

The effective performances of OBSEC have been quite modest so far. I think an honest re-evaluation of its ambitions (and of its demands towards partners, including the EU) is needed in relation with its own capacity for political commitment, for conscripting the necessary resources and for managing projects on a regional scale. After having worked for four years within this organisation I am able to tell what it can and what it can not achieve realistically. Therefore, I would recommend a pragmatic attitude towards OBSEC without prejudice and without illusions which are not supported by facts.

How do you appreciate the relation between the Black Sea Synergy and the new European initiative, the Eastern Partnership? What role could Romania play in this context?

Although there is an impression, which is, in my opinion, false, that there would be a certain overlapping of objectives between the two initiatives of the EU, they are in fact complementary. The Black Sea Synergy's objective is, mainly, to promote multilateral collaboration in regional format, while the Eastern Partnership focuses on the development of the bilateral relations of the EU with each of the countries concerned. Thus, both programmes strengthen each other. As a EU Member State and, at the same time, regional actor, Romania assumed the responsibility of coordinating the environment sector, maybe the most important from the perspective of the present-day preoccupations on the European and world level. Let us not forget that the main legal instrument in this area,

the Convention on the prevention of the Black Sea pollution, was signed in 1992 in Bucharest. This mission must be treated professionally and with due consideration by concentrating the best competences in an organisational form which is flexible and efficient at the national level, in order to successfully fulfil the tasks of coordinating the regional actions. There is also a need for the optimal utilisation of the contacts network on a governmental line as well as of the huge potential of co-working in the academic environment and among the concerned civil society groups.

Do you think that, at present, the institutional framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is sufficient for the consolidation of the cooperation between the Eastern partner states?

I do not think we should worry too much about the institutional framework. The EU structures have proved during many years their capacity to adapt quickly enough to the new requirements. As the political will based on clearly identified interests builds up and the volume of resources allotted to the collaboration with EU's neighbouring regions increases, the institutional formula will adjust dynamically. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty will, no doubt, bring some important clarification regarding the functioning of the decision mechanisms and the relations between the various EU structures, having as a result a greater efficiency in the application of ENP. Today's focus on the improvement of the administrative capacity in partner countries and on the harmonisation of the regulations and internal work procedures with those of the EU will create in time a certain institutional symmetry which will also favour the extension of the collaboration areas between these states. For EU's Eastern neighbourhood the outcome of the ongoing negotiations for the conclusion of a new collaboration arrangement between the EU and Russia will be of great importance.

In the context of a new European initiative of regional cooperation, namely the European Strategy in the Danube Region, which do you consider would be the opportunities for Romania?

Romania has the longest section of the Danube of all the riparian countries, including the sea access. Its interest towards the wise capitalization of the economic, cultural and touristic potential of the Danube basin by the collaboration of the riparian countries is, therefore, natural and legitimate. The Carpathian – Danubian Summit in Bucharest, 2001, confirmed that there is such an availability also from the part of the other partners. EU's recent initiative takes into account that the Rhine – Main canal system provides a trans-European waterway from the North Sea to the Black Sea. It is enough to mention that the volume of the transports on the Rhine is 50 greater than the transports currently carried out on the Danube. The perspectives are, therefore, extremely promising. And in this case there is a need for a conceptual and practical approach which is much more complex than before, implying well coordinated contributions from many institutions and authorities.

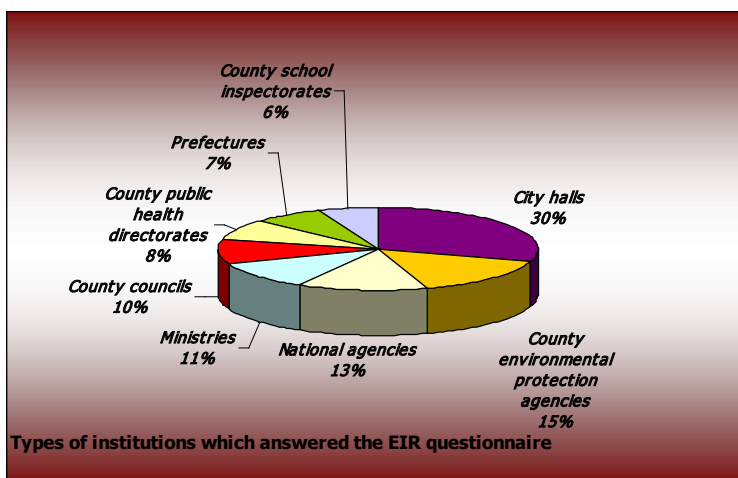
Interview by **Oana Mocanu**

EIR agenda: November 2009

- EIR – ISPRI Conference:** The Republic of Moldova Between Eternal Neighbourhood and European Integration **16 November**
- EIR – The European Commission Representation in Romania:** Overcoming the economic and financial crisis. Seizing the opportunity for reforming the global economy **19 – 20 November**
- EIR – The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bucharest Conference:** Strengthening financial supervision in Europe and its importance for macroeconomic stability and a sound business environment **25 November**
- EIR Course:** General Training Programme in European Affairs **16 – 19 November**
- EIR Course:** Economic and Monetary Union **26 – 27 November**

The training needs assessment in the field of European Affairs for the Romanian public administration

In October, the Training in European Affairs Unit of the European Institute of Romania (EIR) launched a **training needs assessment in the field of European Affairs for the Romanian public administration**. The training needs assessment is one of the main instruments by which EIR substantiates its short and medium term plan of training activities. The report on the current analysis will provide the basis for designing the training plan for the period 2010-2011, giving priority to the training offer for 2010.



The training themes in the field of European Affairs which were been identified as essential include the following: general knowledge about the European institutions and the decision making process (40% of the respondents); the legal system of the EU and the environmental policy were important for 30% of respondents, while 13% were interested in the economic and monetary union and 11% showed interest in the field of justice and home affairs.

Methodologically speaking, the training needs assessment used a questionnaire (with a total number of 15 items) which included mostly multiple choice questions, but also some open questions. The questions aimed to identify the priority areas in the field of European Affairs for which the Romanian public administration (central, local and decentralized services) needs training. Moreover, it aimed to assess EIR's visibility in the territory, as well as the degree of knowledge of its training offer at the level of public institutions.

As regards the costs, the training needs assessment implied only the use of EIR's human resources and the questionnaire was sent in electronic form to several categories of public institutions. Thus, among the targeted institutions there were ministries, national agencies, county councils, city halls, prefectures as well as county environmental protection agencies, county school inspectorates and county public health directorates.

Due to the positive feedback received, the initial deadline (16 October) for the submission of the filled-in questionnaires was extended with one week in order to give all interested institutions the necessary time to complete the EIR questionnaire.

Among the suggestions expressed by respondents with regard to the organisation of training programmes on new themes, the following stand out: accessing the structural funds, the normative and institutional reforms introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, strategic management, the EU energy policy, the common foreign and security policy.

The diversity of the institutions which answered EIR's request was also mirrored in the estimation of the number of participants which could attend the EIR training programmes in 2010. If some of the decentralised services saw a weak link with the professional training in European Affairs, institutions of the local administration such as city halls, as well as several ministries have expressed the wish to create entire groups of participants for certain programmes from the EIR offer, including the collaboration with our partner in the Netherlands, the European Institute of Public Administration.

Acknowledgements and perspectives

On this occasion, the Training in European Affairs Unit of the EIR wishes to thank all the institutions which answered our request for their willingness and promptness. They will all receive a summary of the report on the training needs analysis at the end of November.

It is our hope that the training offer EIR will propose to the public administration, as well as to other socio-professional categories in 2010 will match their needs.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that EIR is ready to organise training programmes at request and at the local level according to the needs of beneficiaries and the available resources.

Statistics and conclusions

The questionnaire was sent to a total number of **280** central and local public administration bodies, of which **130** answered EIR's request. It must be stressed that in certain cases, although an exception to the rule, some institutions sent multiple answers to the questionnaire. The diversity of voices and perspectives was used in the drafting of the analysis report, even if apparently it might have been detrimental to the coherence and uniformity of the report.

Considering the total number of questionnaires received, the percentage distribution on the types of institutions which filled in the questionnaire is as follows:

Alina Arhire

Training in European Affairs Unit

MULTILINGUALISM AND CYBERSPACE

"Linguistic diversity is our most universal living heritage" was the motto of the international symposium on multilingualism and language presence in cyberspace (29 and 30 September 2009), at the Pompeu Fabra University of Barcelona, organized by **Linguamón** - House of Languages, director Antoni Mir and **Maaya** - global network for linguistic diversity, president Adama Samassekou. Members in the scientific committee were Marcel Diki-Kidiri (Québec University), Daniel Prado (Latin Union), Yoshiki Mikami (Language Observatory Project) etc. The participants offered a response to the fact that 80% of the world states declare themselves monolingual, although the reality is often far different. The EU average is 4.5 spoken languages in each Member State.



The topics discussed by researchers from Brazil, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, EU Member States, representatives of the Latin Union and of the International Organization of Francophonie referred to public policies, actors of the world's linguistic diversity, resources, immigration issues, the Internet public and the best practices for the management of multilingualism on the Internet.

Politicile publice, actorii mondiali ai diversității lingvistice, marele public al internetului, problemele aduse de imigrare, resursele necesare, bunele practici pentru gestionarea multilingvistismului pe internet au fost temele abordate de cercetătorii din Brazilia, Canada, Japonia, Elveția, din statele Uniunii Europene, de reprezentanții ai Uniunii Latine și ai Organizației Internaționale a Francofoniei.

In the galaxy of languages, every word is a star

Paraphrasing a line from a christian Spanish song (*Tu palabra es una estrella*), the motto of UNESCO in 1999: "en la galaxia de las lenguas cada palabra es una estrella" was adopted to celebrate the International Day of mother tongues. For the Spanish speakers, this formula was a leitmotiv during the symposium.

In Barcelona, as well as throughout Catalonia, multilingualism is a public policy. Thus, the Generalitat (the regional administration) coordinates through the department of language policy the Catalan Terminology Centre, executive coordinator Jordi Bover i Salvadó. The Generalitat de Catalunya supported the event, the television and local media reflected the workings. Four conferences and five round-tables gathered the presentations focused on the economic, social, cultural and human importance of languages in cyberspace, the statistics and language dynamics in cyberspace, the evolution of cyberspace, the digital literacy, the access on the Internet for the languages without a written form, the costs.

The presence of languages in cyberspace in mid-2009 was as follows: 700 million Internet users worldwide, out of which only 4% in Africa. Of the approximately 40 000 languages spoken on the planet, one language disappears every two months, and only 264 are working languages for Wikipedia. Since 2008, China has the majority presence

on the Internet. If in 1996 80% of all pages were in English, in 2007 their number dropped to 40%. The number of pages written in all Romance languages together exceeds the number of pages written in English (source: Daniel Pimienta, FUNREDES).

Internet users: creators yesterday - consumers today

The participants emphasized the necessity to train in universities creators for the Internet, as the issue of content in relation to creativity is essential in every aspect (digital editing, music, images, and dictionaries).

This requirement is however subject to the technical costs and the question of unwritten languages. If the most widely spoken languages in the world (the first is Mandarin, followed by Spanish, English, Arabic, Hindi, Bengali, etc.) are the most present in cyberspace also, other languages - mostly spoken in Africa - are excluded from this universe. Even though cyberspace values (freedom, equality, fraternity) are universal, in fact, their assertion is hampered by many technical, economic gaps, and by the poor literacy in African countries.



How we measure linguistic diversity on cyberspace

The Language and Cyberspace research group from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia announced the following conclusions:

LANGUAGES	Conclusions - presence in cyberspace	Comments
European	Internet use grows in Asia, to the detriment of local languages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no statistical data for e-mail, sms, msn; no analysis of the linguistic quality of texts.
Arab	Constantly growing.	
African	New entries on the Internet.	
Romance	Their use increases over English.	

Digital Literacy

The urgency of digital literacy was stressed. Although the number of Internet users is doubling every year, yet 30% of them are into adulthood. A general dissatisfaction of the speakers was that Internet access is not supported by creativity and that the number of new pages compared to the number of users is insignificant. Speakers referred also to the communication networks (i.e. Facebook has 226 million members), that "if they could, they would already change the world!" With this sceptical conclusion, it was obvious that even though cyberspace seems accessible, it is sophisticated and requires significant resources (linguistics, IT), structural and human conditions in order to give a proper picture of multilingualism.

Mariana Bara, PhD

Translation Coordination Unit

The Black Sea Region: Link Between an Enlarged Europe and its New Neighbourhood

OFEZ, IFRI, EIR Collaboration: 15 and 16 October 2009, Bucharest



The Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe OFEZ and the French Institute for International Relations IFRI and the European Institute of Romania dedicated the conference to a seemingly peripheral region ignored until recently, but which,

ever since the accession to the EU of Romania and Bulgaria, concentrates solid European interests. Discussions focused on recent developments of cooperation initiatives in the area where they are complementary or whether, on the contrary, compete with earlier initiatives, and on impact assessment of these initiatives in the development of the Black Sea region.

The conference was opened by His Excellency Mr. **Mats Åberg**, Ambassador of Sweden in Romania and was attended by His Excellency Mr. **Henri Paul** Ambassador of France in Romania, who chaired the panel dedicated to the identification of key challenges for the cooperation process in the region, from the geopolitical perspective. Moreover, His Excellency Mr. **Martin Einchtinger**, Ambassador of Austria in Romania, chaired the panel on energy issues, as a major topic of the environment – energy relationship.

Geopolitical issues, environment, energy, economic development and social context in the region were discussed in panels chaired by **Xavier Rey**, Business Adviser, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Paris, **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General, European Institute of Romania, **Dominic Bruynseels**, Executive Director of the Romanian Commercial Bank/Erste, and **Mark Cunningham**, Deputy Director, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, Bucharest. The conference sessions enjoyed contributions from political, diplomatic and economic personalities, government representatives and NGOs, journalists, researchers from Austria, France, Poland, Turkey and Romania.

Framework for regional cooperation defined, but what kind of balance so far?

The Black Sea Synergy, the Eastern Partnership and the future Danube Strategy reflect the different expectations of the countries in the region and develop different policies, in a potential rivalry.

The cooperation in regional networks was presented by Sorina Canea from the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing, Joint Managing Authority for the **Black Sea Joint Operational Program 2007-2013** (Black Sea JOP), which brings together 10 states. The programme amount of 17 MEUR is provided by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (**ENPI**). It addresses projects involving at least one organization from one EU Member State (Bulgaria, Greece, and Romania) and one organization of a Member State (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine) lasting for a period of 12 to 24 months. The evaluation of the submitted projects will be completed in January 2010 and the first contracts will be concluded in March. The applicants who have submitted projects are local and regional development agencies, NGOs,

etc., focusing three priorities: economic and social development partnership based on common resources, environmental protection and conservation, support for educational networks, in order to create a common cultural environment in the Black Sea Region.

As for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC; in French OCEM), Mr. Ambassador Traian Chebeleu stressed that till now this is a discussion forum, with low efficiency. There are opportunities for collaboration with the UNDP, such as the development of the forum on packaging industry and the forum on grain production. Given that a major requirement in the area is the transport infrastructure, this can be achieved only through regional cooperation.

Comprehensive overview of the event, in English, is available on the EIR website: http://www.ier.ro/documente/arhiva_evenimente_2009/Black_Sea_15-16_10_09_sinteza.pdf.

For the Programme, Resumé and Speeches see www.oefz.at.

Mariana Bara, PhD

Translation Coordination Unit

European Union and Russia: the way towards partnership

On **7 October**, a new conference held by Mr. **Jean-Louis Bourlanges**, Associated Professor at the Institute of Political Studies (IEP) and former member of the European Parliament, took place in the main hall of the Central University Library, as part of the series of conferences "Romania-France: together in Europe". The conference was attended by His Excellency Mr. **Henri Paul**, the Ambassador of the French Republic in Romania and was moderated by Ms. **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General of the European Institute of Romania.

The talks aimed to outline the framework in which the partnership between Russia and the European Union is organised at present, as well as the past of these relations, that is the period until 1945, the Cold War period and the period after 1991.

As Mr. Bourlanges stated, Russia appeared late in the European act, at the end of the 18th century, mostly with a destabilizing role which fades upon of the end of the Second World War, when the soviet threat was used as a guarantee for the stability of the Franco-German relations. The guest's opinion regarding the fall of the Soviet Union was that the event was badly managed by the West, which did not succeed in preventing the humiliation of Russia as a result of several unilateral political actions: the unilateral management by the West of the policy of force on global stage and setting up a "sanitary cordon" policy around Russia.

As regards the recent history of the relations between the two players, the talks highlighted that the last two years marked a change in the wider framework of the relations between Russia and the West, following events such as the 2008 war in Georgia and the position of the new US administration which launched a campaign of testing Russian reactions, making a series of concessions with a view to establishing a sustainable partnership. In this context, it is necessary that the Europeans too, in their turn, make efforts to find the optimal combination between moderation and resolution, which is so necessary in the relations with Russia.

Mihai Sebe

Analysis and European Studies

Working Paper no. 23

THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY – NEW INITIATIVES. ROMANIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS

We bring to your attention the issue of a new micro-study in the Working Papers series of the European Institute of Romania, under the title *The European Neighbourhood Policy - New Initiatives. Romania's contributions*, elaborated by **Oana Mocanu**, Project Coordinator in the EIR's European Studies and Analysis Unit.

The author presents the main elements of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the new initiatives of cooperation between the European Union and its neighbours – the Union for the Mediterranean and the Eastern Partnership, as well as a short evaluation of Romania's main contributions within the ENP and in the field of cooperation in the Black Sea Region.

The EU's enlargement towards the Central and Eastern Europe has modified the EU's foreign policy priorities accordingly. With the frontiers shifting eastwards, an adjustment of the institutional framework and of the policies on the EU's immediate neighbourhood was required. This is the context in which the ENP emerged.

Subsequently, the objectives sought after, such as the consolidation or the reform of the ENP, lead to the emergence and the promotion of new initiatives such as the Union for the Mediterranean, the Eastern Partnership, projects which, along with the Black Sea Synergy, particularly accentuate the regional and multilateral component of the neighbourhood policy, being complementary to the initial bilateral elements of the ENP.

Romania has supported and continues to support the objective of establishing a stability and security area in its Eastern neighbourhood, keeping in view its increased responsibilities arising from the statute of Member State on the Eastern border of the Union. Actively supporting the European perspective of Moldova, as well as the development of the regional cooperation projects in general and cross-border cooperation in particular, Romania has started a series of initiatives in the field of cooperation at the Black Sea, most of which have among their objectives the establishment / consolidation of an active and concrete presence of the European Union in the region.

The idea of complementarity of the different initiatives of the European Union in the Black Sea Region, particularly between the Black Sea Synergy and the Eastern Partnership, constitutes a key element of the establishment and development of these projects. As the Eastern dimension of the ENP became particularly important with the establishment of the Eastern Partnership, not only the overlapping of policies, objectives, instruments formulated by the two initiatives might be envisaged, but also a potential competition between the two, which can derive even from aspects related to the financing of concrete projects to be implemented.

There is the risk that the multitude of initiatives, often overlapping, which have as object and scope the Black Sea basin might gradually lead to the dilution of the interest and willingness to cooperate of the EU Member States, as well as of the substance and the strategic importance of the practical cooperation in the region and not to their stimulation, as anticipated in all of the official documents and projects to be implemented within these initiatives.

It will be important to notice to what extent all these initiatives will prove to be efficient in practical terms, particularly in the new ENP institutional framework which generously provides instruments and work mechanisms.



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