



Jean Monnet Project: 101085662 WBREGIO

**The Legitimacy
of New Regionalism
in the European
Integration Process**



FROM EXCLUSIVE BORDERS
TO INCLUSIVE FRONTIERS
IN THE **Western
Balkans**



CALL FOR CONFERENCE

The Department of International Relations and European Studies, University of Oradea invite you to participate in the international conference

THE LEGITIMACY OF NEW REGIONALISM IN THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

04-05 May 2023, Oradea, Romania

One of the great challenges of contemporary Europe is related to the process of integration and the need for European integration of different communities and regions. Evaluations conducted have shown that there is a great need for expertise and policies regarding the development of the European integration process.

New geopolitical realities, associated with a process of national-identity emancipation, have led to the redrawing of political maps in South East Europe. Slowly, societies from this space matured and the injuries of the past began to heal. Even though there are still many open wounds, a reconciliation process has begun at the level of public discourse, at the political level and even at the level of identity.

The process of European integration seemed to be the solution in the context of widespread aspirations of the populations of these states towards the EU accession. Even if in the past years the process was promising, the actual situation shows that this is a highly contested and unfinished project. The idea of regional cooperation or regionalism, seen as policy cooperation in different areas among geographically proximate neighbors, has been a main tendency in the foreign policies of the countries, particularly in Europe. The above external explanations of regional cooperation are particularly important in cases of conflictual or post-conflict, developing and aid dependent societies like the Western Balkans.

As a result, or we can call it as a consequence, both the WB countries and the EU face the challenge that the accession and integration process needs to be legitimate, efficient, effective, successful and sustainable.

The Jean Monnet international conference will seek to identify and analyze the process of European integration and the level of different forms of cooperation between regions, ethnic and confessional groups in contemporary societies. We propose to explore the origins and best practices of different type of cooperation's at different levels and its role in the European integration process and today's global environment. The topic of the conference addresses EU studies by proposing a detailed explanation of the concepts like role of the civil society in the democratization process, management of interethnic relations, security versus openness of borders, new regionalism and the role of these in the European integration process.

The conference is organized in the frame of the Jean Monnet project, entitled ***The legitimacy of new regionalism in the European Integration process. From exclusive borders to inclusive frontiers in the Western Balkans.*** In this sense, we propose to find solutions, processes and elements which can be defined and used as actors involved in policy making at EU level, but, most importantly, actors that can channel EU values at the local level by promoting governance and openness to the citizens.



Conference panels will be related, but not limited, to:

- the regionalization process and the legitimacy of new identity constructions
- the role of civil society in the democratization and in the European integration process
- civil society in Central and Eastern Europe
- minority and majority in the Western Balkans
- managing interethnic relations and community security in the integration process
- security versus openness of borders and migrant integration
- regional and cross-border co-operation
- processes of de-bordering
- social, confessional and cultural differences between communities

IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS & DEADLINES

- The official language of the conference: *English* and *French*
- We invite proposals from various disciplines including political sciences, European studies and international relations, history, philosophy, sociology, law, anthropology, linguistics, etc.
- The conference will be organized in a hybrid mode (physical and online). Presentations will be delivered also online. Participation through the online channel will be possible based on invitation of the organizing committee.
- The organizers cover the costs of print and publish all the materials of the conference including the volume comprising the articles.
- Some of the selected papers presented at the conference will be proposed for publication in the conference proceedings
- Other presented papers from the conference will be proposed for publication in the following journals: *Eurolimes* and *Annals of the University of Oradea, Fascicle of International Relations and European Studies*, (quoted in three international databases, EBSCO, CEEOL and Index Copernicus)

1st of March 2023 – deadline for application form (title, abstracts of papers and short biography of authors - in English)

15th of March 2023 – selection of the participants, distribution of participants in the panels and final confirmation of participants;
