



Bulletin No. 1 of Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are delighted to present the first Bulletin prepared by Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan *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 implemented and planned activities as part 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. Organizational activities of the Centre of Excellence EU EX / ACT

The first action undertaken as part of the Centre was the final constitution of the project team responsible for the implementation of the activities planned within the Centre of Excellence. At the meeting in September 2018, the Centre Coordinator, Prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Wallas officially inaugurated his activity, which was, among others, the result of the conclusion of a contract with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. It was also an opportunity to inform the wider academic community about the Centre's opening.

The second key element of the activity carried out in connection with the inauguration of the Centre was the launch of the website at <http://coe.amu.edu.pl>. It has become not only a platform of information about the activities of our Centre of Excellence, but also a tool enabling interaction with recipients of activities carried out by the project team.

2. Meeting and lecture for high school students and teachers in Poznań

On January 26, 2018, Prof. Tadeusz Wallas met with high school students and teachers from the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism in Poznań.

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It was an opportunity to give a lecture as part of the Centre of Excellence activities titled: Poland in 2004-2019. Was it worth joining the EU? In the event 31 listeners took part.

3. Meeting and lecture for high school students and teachers in Słubice

On January 26, 2018, prof. Maciej Walkowski met with high school students and teachers from the Lubuskie Voivodeship in the Collegium Polonicum in Słubice. It was an opportunity to give a lecture as part of the Center of Excellence activities *Trade policy of the European Union. Examples of international agreements of a new type*. About 60 people took part in the meeting.

4. Annual XIX Europeanist conference in Słubice

The 19th conference organized in the "Europe of the 21st Century" series, which took place on February 7-8, 2019, endeavoured 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 has provided a foundation for conclusions and forecasts that – if implemented – should help overcome crises and foster rapid future development. The conference thereby has provided 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 was 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 took part in the conference.

5. A visit to Taiwan

On 19-25. 02. br. Professor Maciej Walkowski visited the National Chengchi University in Taiwan as part of the cooperation conducted by the Faculty of Political Sciences and Journalism, along with other employees of the Faculty. It was an opportunity to exchange experiences at the levels of: scientific cooperation, exchange of academic staff and students, and preparation of joint educational projects. In addition, prof. Maciej Walkowski presented the activities of the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at UAM in Poznań to the hosts from Taipei.

I. ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

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

In the summer semester of the academic year 2018/2019, courses for students will be started as part of the subject of the Centre of Excellence. Most classes will be offered to students in Polish, but 3 out of 9 courses will be offered to students in English. The following courses will be 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.

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

1. Scholarship for young researchers

One of the tasks of the Centre of Excellence is to influence the scientific community in European and non-European countries and to strengthen the presence of Jean Monnet programs in other scientific institutions.

Therefore, by the end of March 2019, the Centre of Excellence accepts applications from young scientists for two-week research stays financed from the funds of the European Commission.

As part of the stay, the scholarship holder will be required to participate in the Centre of Excellence activities, give a lecture to the UAM academic community, publish a scientific article within the Centre's subject matter, and deliver a lecture at his home university.

2. 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.

III. THE MOST INTERESTING POLICY PROBLEMS IN EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS

1. BREXIT

The problem and process of UK withdrawal from the EU, although directly affecting the internal functioning of the EU, is also of great importance for the position and role of the EU in global politics. Brexit, by its very nature, questions the purposefulness of the European integration process, regardless of the real reasons underlying the decision of British citizens to leave the EU. The uncertainty associated with the final result of the Brexit process causes specific negative consequences for the EU, because it does not allow for a fully rational way to build external relations, because Great Britain was and still is their very important part.

The UK's internal problems related to the lack of acceptance of the negotiated agreement signify a state of "suspension" in the organization of external policy, because ultimately it may turn out that Great Britain will remain a member of the EU, even though for some time. ***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.***



This will force one hand to take into account the formal presence of Great Britain in the EU, but on the other hand, it may mean more and more autonomy and distance from the EU foreign policy, which, even with the awareness of leaving the EU, will still mean internal contestation of the EU's actions on the international scene.

2. Iran

The Iranian nuclear program has been a subject of wide interest of global actors, including the European Union, for many years. By the same token, such measures taken by Iran were contrary to the vision of international relations advocated by the EU.

The agreement, which was reached in 2016, was considered a breakthrough and guaranteeing the elimination of danger for the international community carried out by the Iranian nuclear program. The European Union was one of the main authors of this agreement. However, the election of Donald Trump as the President of the United States of America caused a fundamental modification of the foreign policy pursued by that country, which was also reflected in the US attitude to the agreement with Iran. The result is the situation where, on the one hand, attempts are made to implement the agreement, on the other hand, there is a contestation by the US, one of the main achievements of the EU foreign policy, which could confirm the EU's ability to build permanent international security.

It is worth noting here that the EU also notices the very destructive actions taken by Iran in the region, which, although they do not have direct connection with the nuclear program, indicate a significant lack of respect for international law and are inconsistent with the image of the world propagated by the EU.

3. Climate diplomacy

A concept that has only recently gained more interest from the EU is 'climate diplomacy'. This innovative approach is related to the recognition that climate changes are a direct and existential threat to every state, because the impact of climate changes on the stability and security of states has not yet been properly noticed. The European Union recognizes that activities undertaken on the global forum are not enough. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the EU's commitment to cooperation with partners, under the leadership of the UN, so that it is possible to implement the long-term vision of the European Commission to build a climate-neutral economy.

4. Disinformation

An element of contesting the vision of the world propagated by the EU is the attempt of external actors to influence electoral and social processes in the Member States and the European Union. The problem of disinformation is now a major threat to the stability of the democratic systems of the Member States and the European Union. In the face of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament, this problem is of particular importance. The intervention of non-EU actors in decision-making processes has already taken place at the occasion of the vote in Great Britain on the Brexit decision. The disinformation activities ***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.***



undertaken are aimed at promoting opinions criticizing the process of European integration and EU activity on different fields.

That is why, due to the very often external origin of disinformation, member states have decided to counteract this kind of practices. Activities are undertaken on the basis of the Joint Action Plan approved by the foreign ministers of the Member States, as disinformation has been recognized as a part of a hybrid war and major threat to the security of the entire EU. At the same time, holistic actions undertaken by the EU are to take into account national approaches and the need to protect freedom of speech and freedom of the media.

The main element of the activities undertaken is the creation of EU "Rapid Alert System" that facilitates the exchange of experiences, and the undertaking of coordinated actions, in particular through the implementation of information campaigns. In the undertaken activities, the broad involvement of social partners and representatives of civil society is to be the crucial element to provide success.

It is worth noting that within the activities undertaken, it is also planned to support EU neighbours in order to increase their resilience to disinformation supported by external actors.

5. Venezuela

In recent months, the subject of very wide international interest is the political situation in Venezuela, where the recent presidential election has been contested and, as a result, the legitimacy of the Maduro presidency has not been recognized by much of the international community. The European Union does not recognize the legitimacy of the Maduro presidency and supports the chairman of the parliament, which on the basis of the constitution declared himself head of state.

The problem took on a global character due to the enormous economic crisis prevailing in Venezuela, resulting from the inept government of Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro. As a result of the crisis and, among others Inflation, a huge part of society fell into poverty. Venezuela has been criticized by the EU or the US for years because of the direction of reforms taken by the rulers and their catastrophic consequences. At the same time, however, the President Maduro, who is not recognized by the EU or the US, has been supported by the States contesting the EU-promoted global order.

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