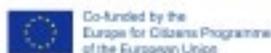




CONFERENCE „EUROPE IN THE WAKE OF THE EP ELECTIONS: PERSPECTIVES, RISKS AND RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA“



Проектът се финансира от Европейската комисия, Програма ЕВРОПА ЗА ГРАЖДАНИТЕ,
Направление 2: Демократична ангажираност и гражданско участие.



FIRST PANEL: PROSPECTS AND RISKS

*European solidarity prof. PhD Hristo P. Todorov,
New Bulgarian University*

**Lector: prof. PhD Hristo P. Todorov,
New Bulgarian University**

The grand crises in the European Union during the last decade – the debt crisis and the unified currency crisis, migration crisis, the crisis as a result of the BREXIT along with the destructing interventions of Russia – have challenged the solidarity among the various member states. The difficulties in addressing these crises and especially when it comes to finding common solutions became one of the most crucial factors for the rise of euro sceptics and the national – populist parties in many EU countries. Such a rise not only makes it difficult to form a common policy of the Union but at certain point it threatens the Union's existence. It appears that the level of solidarity among the member states, and moreover among their societies is quite low. In this report, we are looking for the answer of the question how to react on political level in such a disturbing situation.

EU: Risks for disintegration

Lector: Stefan Popov, PhD Risk Monitor

After the Second World War the European community has been established as a remedy for a concrete issue. It is project for preventing a new war. The idea is to neutralize the precondition for a common continental conflict in Europe. With its development, going through various stages of expansion or in-depth integration, the Community has lost track of it is first goal. The integration becomes self-centered or self-estimated On its turn this feature brings the EU closer to the nation-

building process. The replacement of the specific project task with an open process of country integration involves many risks. In this part we will track the group of the main risks to the contemporary European Union.

SECOND PANEL: EUROSCEPTICISM: INFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Anti-European and pro-Russian propaganda

*Lector: Prof., PhD Dimitar Vacov, New Bulgarian
University*

The national-populism in Europe and the propaganda in the media, controlled by Kremlin, even before the Crimea and the migration crises, are in the regime of pollinating each other and share some common reference points. Until 2016 such a reference point was the Euroscepticism. EU was a superficial and harmful project, which is doomed to fail in order for the peoples to regain their sovereignty. Paradoxically, after Brexit and the election of Trump, instead of achieving a triumph, the Euroscepticism is suddenly collapsing: in 2017 in Bulgarian media it is two times lower than in 2016. The official Russian media as well decrease the degree/level of confrontational rhetorics in regards the EU, and the national-populist leaders in Europe shift rapidly the „exit“-rhetorics with the rhetorics of Europe of nation states. Why?

Public Attitudes

Lector: Genoveva Petrova, Alpha Research

The Eurosceptic vote in Bulgaria in the eve of the European parliamentary elections. Analysis of the electoral aspirations of the Bulgarian voters, which is looking for the answers to the questions is there an Eurosceptic vote in the country, what is its gravity, in what state is it? Can it cause any significant political and electoral consequences? What is stimulating it and what can limit it?

THIRD PANEL: EUROPE OF NATION-STATES IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

Lector: Julian Popov

The European Union is surprised and frustrated from its success. Seven decades of peace, victory in the Cold-War and the 28 member-states have transformed the Union into an aging and starved community. The EU is established as a resolution to the problem between two nation states. His design is not a multinational one, like The Commonwealth. To get out of its tangle, the EU needs a clear look outside. The resource policy and external threats are a risk but can also be a catalyst for a new design of the Union.