UNIVERSITY OF CRAIOVA
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Projects and Research

International Conference

SOCIAL MODERNIZATION AND THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

November 21-23, 2008
Craiova, Dolj, Romania

Regional Association for Rural Development

ARDR

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FROM THE HOSTS

Bine ati venit!

Welcome to the International Conference, Social Modernization and Global Development!

On behalf of UNIVERISTY OF CRAIOVA, Faculty of Social Sciences- Department of Projects and Research, the Regional Association for Rural Development and the Conference Advisory Committee, we are pleased to welcome you at the International Conference, Social Modernization and Global Development.

We are honored to host such a prestigious group of key speakers and a diverse group or participants whose academic and in filed experience would undoubtedly foster interesting discussions and may lead to engineering a sustainable follow up to the Conference.

The Conference looks way ahead at shedding innovation onto the academic agenda and bringing ardent and critical topics into the front line for further epistemological consideration and open debate.

The current Conference directions, *the European Regional Policy- in between policy innovation and politics modernization, Active citizenship, participation and governance, and Global and Regional Social Trends* are meant to sparkle frank and thoughtful dialogues as the needed ingredients for the success of this Conference.

Thank you all for coming and giving us your time and energy!

Sincerely,

The Conference Advisory Committee

Social Modernization and The Global Development is the fruitful outcome of the project Partnership- rhetoric or reality implemented by the Regional Association for Rural Development with support from the Department of Projects and Research- Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova.

Social Modernization and the Global Development Conference provides a forum for leading academia, policymakers, opinion leaders, scholars, and NGOs leaders from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss pressing issues facing the European Union, the international community and down to local communities. The current Conference opens a series of trans-national academic ones expected to forge new academic networks and shift research and applied studies towards a progressive way to look at the way societies transform and the global arena incrementally is built on.

The Agenda and Format

The Conference agenda reflects the current and emerging challenges for UE, states and societies all over the world. It includes discussion sessions on themes, such as European Regional Policy- in between policy innovation and politics modernization, Active citizenship, participation and governance, Global and Regional Social Trends.

The core topics are wide enough and comprehensive looking to attract innovative papers, applied studies and attendants from various realms of study and practice: economics, sociology, political science, international relations, etc. Keynote addresses by renowned academia representatives, senior officials, NGO leaders and policy advisers are designed to spur intimate exchange of dialogue among panelists and participants.

The Organizers

The actual endeavor is a joint effort of the Regional Association for Rural Development (ARDR) and Faculty of Social Sciences- Department of Projects and Research, The University of Craiova. The **Regional Association for Rural Development (ARDR)** is a non-governmental and no-profit organization dedicated to strengthening local communities to evolve into self management entities, with a solid social fabric and a vibrant local economy.

Department of Projects and Research (DPR) is an academic task force working on policy innovation, applied research and technical assistance.

ABOUT THE PROJECT: PARTNERSHIP – RHETORIC OR REALITY?

Situation Analysis

The theme of the project lies in the greatest variation in the way the partnerships occur throughout the countries involved in the project, in the case of horizontal axis - the involvement of NGOs in the run up of the local affairs and local governance.

Nevertheless, in some countries (Romania, Croatia), the development of appropriate legal and fiscal environments for the functioning and participation of NGOs in local affairs and local governance has been rather advanced; still, problems occur in real life situations when there is still a wide gap particularly in between de facto and de jure involvement of civil society organizations (NGOs). Local governments are paying lips-service to the relationship with the NGOs; partnerships remain at the stage of ticked actions, sometimes required by external donors, sometimes giving the willingness of politicians to comply with requirements for further integration of the country in the International Organizations.

Partnerships are too much inclined to lean on the efficiency side, targeting outputs at the cots of outcomes that the whole community will benefit in a long terms perspective. Hence, once a joint project is completed, the relationship in between local governments and NGOs does not spur into a follow up. That has led indirectly o another downside that is the fragmentation of partnership. The mainstream of short-term project-based partnership through NGOs and local governments has resulted in too many one-off interventions of limited duration that often overlap and are uncoordinated. No local strategy has been created on the partnership in between NGOs and local governments that may fill in the gap of sometimes vague, non-explicit national legislation.

There has been feeble indigenous demand for the participation of NGOs in the local affairs and governance for various reasons, for instance, not enough trust into the 3rd sector from the governmental side, lack of cohesiveness amongst NGOs to speak with one voice.

As there have been critical historical junctures in all countries part of the project, the process of democratization is still in its infancy and needs to be deepened; moreover, there have been ongoing processes of decentralization, devolution and re-definition of territories triggering the dispersion of prime local identities, diffusion of power and resources down to the local communities. As a consequence, there has been a widening gap in between citizens and local governments being given the lack of identity, ownership and participation in the local governance. Thus, as citizens prove lack of interest in local affairs and governance, there is a high risk that democracy will be constrained to groups of citizens lacking legitimacy of a large majority leading implicitly to an increased democratic deficit and the emergence of autocracies.

ABOUT THE PROJECT: PARTNERSHIP – RHETORIC OR REALITY?

Again, there are positive examples in the region that thanks to the inclusion of NGOs, as engine to gauge citizens' interests, a redefinition on new societal identity at the local level helped the build up of institutional networks and social norms indispensable for the learning and adaptation process imposed by the geopolitics in the region, boosted by the catalyzing role of NGOs, increasingly viewed as a promising approach to improve participatory democracy and local governance performance.

Goals

The goal of the project is defined by a threefold dimensional approach:

- Raising the awareness of local governments and citizens on the added value that NGOs bring in the local governance;

- Conducting in country field action in two intertwined directions complementing each other: community facilitation process and participatory based study;

- Organizing an international conference to spur synergies across academia, government agencies, field practitioners, NGOs leaders, policy makers, and for exchange of best practice and networking

Project Stages:

Stage 1: Relevant documentation

Stage 2: Enlarging the local partnership

Stage 3: In country field action:
- Community facilitation process
- Participatory based study

Stage 4: Communication Campaign

Stage 5: International Conference - Social Modernization and the Global Development

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome Desk

The Welcome Desk is your first port of call and resource center for the entire duration of the Conference.

Any questions or need for assistance you may have during the Conference, please head to the Welcome Desk and Conference staff will be pleased to assist you.

At the Welcome Desk you may collect your conference materials and accreditation badge. In case you have not managed to execute the bank transfer, you are to pay in cash to one of the staffers from ARDR, visibly present at the Welcome Desk.

The Welcoming Desk is to be open as it follows:

18:30-19:30   Friday 21st, at the Buia Academic Aula
20:00-21:15   Friday 21st, at the Conference venue, Casa Universitarilor
10:00-11:00   Saturday 22nd, at the Conference venue, Casa Universitarilor

Transportation

Unless noted otherwise, all participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the Conference venues.

The Conference venues are within walking distance- about 30 minutes maximum, at leisure pace. Otherwise, a cab can be ordered at the Hotel; the taxi ride to the Conference venues is within the 1.50 euro cost. Taxi drivers do take euro. Make sure you have Romania lei.

Working Language   Please note that the working language for the Conference is English.

Attire   Business casual is appropriate.

Attire

Buia Academic Aula	Casa Universitarilor	Green House
	Tel: 0251/523.968	Tel: 0251/411.352

Emergency contacts: 0744.399.412

Friday, November 21

18:30-19:30 **Opening Session**
(On the Record, With Media Coverage)

LOCATION: Buia Academic Aula, University of Craiova

Address:
Mr. Dumitru Otovescu, Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania

Mr. Ion Vladimirescu, Rector, University of Craiova, Romania
Daniel Chirot
Prof.PhD, University of Washington, USA
Michael Hechter
Prof.PhD, Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, USA
Mrs. Ana-Maria AELENEI, Programme Assistant, Black Sea Trust for Regional
Cooperation
The German Marshal Fund of the United States
Mrs. Monica Prisacariu, Programme manager
SOROS Foundation, Romania

Introduction: **Mr. Florin Pasatoiu,** Lecturer, PhD
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania

20:00-21:15 **Gala Dinner**

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

21:30-23:00 **Night Owl Sessions**

1. Clashes of nations or the return of nationalism: what is next?
2. Social and Economic Development Directions in Romania

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

Discussants:
Daniel Chirot - Prof.PhD, University of Washington, USA
Michael Hechter - Prof.PhD, Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, USA
Dumitru Otovescu - Prof.PhD, University of Craiova, Romania
Silviu Coposescu, Prof. PhD., Department of Sociology, Transilvania
University RO
Moderators:
Michael Hechter - Prof.PhD, Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, USA
Dumitru Otovescu, Prof. PhD Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

AGENDA

Saturday, November 22

10:00-12:00	**Keynote Address**

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

Introduction: Mr. Florin Pasatoiu, Lecturer, PhD
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania

Speakers:

Daniel Chirot- University of Washington, USA
Michael Hechter- Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, USA

12:15-14:00	**Networking Lunch**

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

14:15-16:00	**Parallel Thematic Sessions**

Session A: European Regional Policy- in between policy innovation and politics modernization – part I

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

Discussants:

Marian Preda, Prof.PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, RO
Marilena Bogheanu, Genereal Director, Agency for Regional Development Oltenia, RO
Ancuta Vamesu, Advocacy Adviser, FPDL
Dragos Pislaru, General Manager, GEA Strategy & Consulting
Radu Petcu, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

Moderator: Florin Pasatoiu, Lecturer PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

The European Regional Policy has been one of the most aggressive policies to of the European Union in reshaping national and regional institutions in order to meet organizational performance to mange funds absorption and to project sustainable development.

Bouncing in between the old approach of administrative endeavors and the new public management, the local public administration, particularly in the new European Union Members States, has found itself more often in disarray rather than following a new path of organizational reformation.

The institutional geography designed by the European Regional Policy has been even further complicated with the call of social actors to embark on the constructing local, regional and national frameworks and paths that funds need to flow for and through.

Guiding question

- To what extent the EU Regional Policy managed to reshape domestic politics and institutional change in the new Members States on their accession way to the European Union?
- How best social and spatial planning can be intertwined?
- How feasible would be to work on an Open Method of Coordination applying in the case of the European Regional Policy?
- How to balance the efficiency and effectiveness of the European Regional Policy funds in reaching targets?
- Or else, where to strike the balance more, programming or spending?
- What are the gain and loses of the re-nationalization of the European Regional Policy?

Session B: Active citizenship, participation and governance– part I

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

Discussants: **Dumitru Sandu** Prof.PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, RO

Mihaela Lambru, Senior Lecturer PhD, University of Bucharest, RO

Vesna Skortova, Director, FOCKUS, Macedonia

Lubco Vrangeloski, Assistant professor, European University, Skopje, R.Macedonia

Moderator: Michael Hechter - Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, USA

The "missing link" came about couple of years ago as a promising way to fix the problem of markets and states' failures to ensure welfare and quality of life for the peoples. Ever since, from the North to the South and from the East to the West , peoples have actively contributed to reshaping institutions and increase accountability claims on public institutions and the states' comitology.

Surprisingly, even before the state, as the modern political construct, has reached the incipient stage of maturation in the developing countries and other parts of the world, an increased process of decentralization of central administrative attributes down to the sub-national governing tiers has been commenced; albeit, coupled by power devolution, a novelty in the governing dynamics heralded the shift from government to governance, with a substantial focus on the participation of the demos in the making of their daily life with respect to the future generations.

Guiding question

- How to find best formats of governance and government to address new social changes as the contradictions in between crass realty and legislature rhetoric has caused a widening split in between "demos" and representative democracy institutions, governments and parliaments?
- In effect, is the good governance the panacea of successes and failures of states and communities to modernize?
- As it is the case with the newly born democracies, are NGOs really examples of an emerging civil society?

- Are they rooted in domestic social change or by far the long-stick to play of the national elites?
- Have former communist countries really experienced changes in the role played by civil society, and have state institutions genuinely adapted to take into account a changed role for civil society?
- How can local governments and local public administrations improve partnership inclusiveness in local governance?
- How to make the contribution of NGOs to partnership efficiency in local governance?
- How to build strategies to promote innovation through involvement of NGOs in partnership?
- Is there a safe and sound emerging third sector as pertinent counterpart for government agencies and local institutions to lead to a sustainable development agenda?

Session C: Global and Regional Social Trends– part I

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

Discussants: **Victor Rizescu**, Lecturer PhD, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Bucharest, RO

Silviu Coposescu, Prof. PhD., Department of Sociology, Transilvania University RO

Eugenia Udangiu, Lecturer, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania

Gabriela Motoi, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences
Constantin Craitoiu, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences
Gabriel Pricina, Associate Professor,PhD., Faculty of Social Sciences
Dumitru Batar, Prof. PhD, Faculty of Sciences, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu
Maria Batar, Prof., Onisifor Ghibu College, Sibiu

Moderator: **Daniel Chirot**- University of Washington, USA

Nationalism, one of the reborn unfulfilled patterns of states' modernization, has arisen as a critical societal expression that has spurred conflict leading to violence and disrupted societies both within modern states and new born democracies as well. Yet, the Western Europe model of nationalism was coined as falling within what was called a liberal, culturally inclusive (Sleeping Beauty) one, as opposed to the illiberal, culturally exclusive (Frankenstein's monster) nationalisms more often found elsewhere. Even more, nationalism has been looked at as having inflamed even more the Darwinian theory of the "survival of the fittest"; Chirot articulates that nationalism has been "defined by blood rather than by civic behavior" and that "[it] intensifies.

Guiding question

- Is there a suitable model for states in the EU and its neighbors to follow as for state polity to get strengthened? Can they overcome remaining ethnic conflicts?
- To what extent does an old fashioned kind of nationalism still prevail?
- Can the new democracies in Europe really trust the supposed transformation of Europe to protect them, particularly since it should be obvious that the United States is bound to play a diminished role in European affairs in the future?
- Have been all of these marginal communities (eg. slums) rationally constructed as an intermediate phase to sweep migrants into the majority large modes of life or we got to the

point of engineering two parallel worlds facing a widening gap amongst themselves that has harsh spillovers into clashes and creating backwardness in terms of progress?
- To what extent would be feasible to look at periphery as a space for social, politic, economic and cultural innovation?
- What new types of organization and ideologies may be necessary to adapt successfully in a very crowded, wealthy world?
- Hence, how to maintain social order in a quest for furthering individual freedom beyond decay and with a society organization where both the state and the market failed to meet expectations and needs, and where new born communities as composed of a milieu of strangers are giving birth ?

16:00-16:30   **Coffee Break**

LOCATION: **Casa Universitarilor**

16:30-19:00   **Parallel Thematic Sessions**

Session A: European Regional Policy- in between policy innovation and politics modernization – part II

LOCATION: **Casa Universitarilor**
Discussants: **Marian Preda**, Prof.PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest,
Marilena Bogheanu, Genereal Director, Agency for Regional Development Oltenia, RO
Ancuta Vamescu, Advocacy Adviser, FPDL
Dragos Pislaru, General Manager, GEA Strategy & Consulting

Moderator: **Florin Pasatoiu**, Lecturer PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

Session B: Active citizenship, participation and governance– part II
LOCATION: **Casa Universitarilor**

Discussants:
Dumitru Sandu Prof.PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, RO
Mihaela Lambru, Senior Lecturer PhD, University of Bucharest, RO
Cristina Otovescu-Frasie, Lecturer PhD, Faculty of Law, University of Craiova, RO
Radu Petcu, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO
Vesna Skortova, Director, FOCKUS, Macedonia
Lubco Vrangeloski, assistant professor, European University, Skopje, R.Macedonia

Moderator: **Michael Hechter**- Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, USA

Session C: Global and Regional Social Trends – part II

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

Discussants:

Gabriela Motoi, Assistant Professor,.PhD,Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

Adrian Otovescu, Assistant Professor,.PhD, Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova, Ro

Victor Rizescu, Lecturer PhD, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Bucharest, RO

Silviu Coposescu, Prof. PhD., Department of Sociology, Transilvania University RO

Constantin Craitoiu, Assistant Professor,.PhD,Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

Dumitru Batar, Prof. PhD, Faculty of Sciences, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Maria Batar, Prof., Onisifor Ghibu College, Sibiu

Eugenia Udangiu, Lecturer, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania

Moderator: **Daniel Chirot**- University of Washington, USA

19:15-19:50 **Closing Session**

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

20:00-21:30 **Official University of Craiova Reception**

LOCATION: Casa Universitarilor

Saturday, November 23

9:00- 17:00 **Social and Networking Event: on invitation from the Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences**
(Trip on boat at the Danube River and Barbecue at La Cazane)

Daniel CHIROT is Job and Gertrud Tamaki Professor of International Studies Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington. His research specialties focus on: ethnic conflict and conflict resolution, political tyranny, socio-political change and comparative historical sociology, Eastern Europe and post-communism.

Michael HECHTER is Foundation Professor of Global Studies, has taught at the Universities of Washington, Arizona and Oxford. He has been a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences and the Russell Sage Foundation, and was a visiting professor at the Universities of Bergen and Llubljana. Hechter's research revolves around three distinct themes. The first concerns the causes of nationalism and group solidarity. This work attempts to account for the political salience of cultural distinctions, especially in advanced societies. A second theme advances rational choice explanations of macrosocial outcomes. A third concerns the role and measurement of individual values in social theory. He is presently working on a book on the causes and consequences of alien rule.

Ion VLADIMIRESCU, Professor PhD, Rector of the University of Craiova, one of the most important of his preoccupations being to develop and to promote this institution at a national and international level. His scientific preoccupations are related especially to: statistical mathematics, algebra, statistic data analyze etc. Since 1990, he is member of the Probabilities and Statistics Society (Romania) and since 1978, member of the Romanian Society of Mathematical Sciences

Dumitru OTOVESCU is professor and Dean of Faculty of Social Science, University of Craiova, director of Social Institute Oltenia. His research specialties focus on: General Sociology, Sociology of Culture, Social Rural and Urban Monography. Research pools. He has coordinated over 50 field research, over 20 books and volumes, over 80 studies and published articles.

Ana-Maria AELENEI is the Program Assistant for GMF Bucharest office. Ana has earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Sciences from the University of Bucharest, and a Certificate d'Etudes Politiques from the Institute for Political Studies of Lyon. She has generously volunteered with several think tanks and institutions in Bucharest (including the Diplomatic Institute and the Romanian Academy).

DISCUSSANT BIOGRAPHIES

Monica PRISACARIU has a Bachelor in Sociology and an MA in European Politics and Economy. She has been working for more than 10 years in the field of community development (World Learning 98-99, Romanian Association for Community Development, / 99-2005)/**/./ Beginning with 2005 - Program Manager of The Integrated Community Development Program within Soros Foundation. Fields of interests: community development, urban development.

Ancuta VAMESU has more than 10 years senior level experience in designing and managing national civil society development programs in Romania . In recent years she has been working on participation in territorial planning. She has conducted several strategic participatory planning processes for local development. She has been a strategic planning consultant for the Regional Development Agency North-East and consultant for partnership activities of the Regional Development Agency South.

Marian PREDA, PhD Professor and Dean of Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest. He is O.N.U. Expert of the United Nations Population Fund. In 2001-2005 he was member of the Commission against Poverty and Promotion the Social Inclusion, Government of Romania. Since 2005 he is Member of the National Commission for Population and Development. Main research domains: social policy, sociology of organizations. In 2006-2007 he was the coordinator of the project *Gender Aspects of Social Security System in Romania*. In 2007-2008 he was national coordinator of the international project MARA (Most at Risk Adolescents), under the aegis of UNICEF.

Dumitru SANDU, - Ph.D. Professor at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest. Ph.D. in sociology, Univ. of Bucharest, 1979 , under the supervision of professor Henri H. Stahl with a thesis on Analysing Social Differentiation in Romanian Rural Communities. Fulbright scholar, affiliated researcher at Penn State University - Population Research and Department of Sociology (1993-1994). He is member of W69 Housing Sociology - CIB (since 1985), member of the International Union for Scientific Study of the Population (1991-1998), local expert for World Bank and PHARE Projects. Main research domains: social data analysis, community and regional development, social stratification and styles of life, migration. Since 2006, he is member in the board of CRCR, Center for Resources for Roma Communities.

Dumitru BATAR - PhD Professor at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Faculty of Sciences and member of the Romanian Association of Sociology. Research areas: sociology of education, family as social institution, human communities etc.

Florin PASATOIU lectures on community development and European Integration, project management, public relations and social communication at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova. He was also appointed as the coordinator of the newly founded Department for Projects and Research within the Faculty of Social Sciences. He graduated as an MA in European and Social Studies at the University of Allborg, Denmark and currently he is elaborating on his PhD dissertation, Informal Social Control and Good Governance. He conducted numerous fellowships at the Mission of Romania to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium, ALDA in Vicenza, Itlay and Council of Europe, Strasbourg, and recently he was awarded and completed his fellowship with the German Marshall Fund of the United States in USA in the spring of 2008.

Antonio TOMONIU has been a member of the Regional Association for Rural Development - ARDR since its inception stage. In June 2008, he was elected as the chairman of ARDR. In between 2006-2008 he was the chief officer for the Department of European Integration at the City hall of Tismana town. His expertise and current interests lie with the reform in the public administration and local governments and with community development as well.

Constantin CRAITOIU is Asisst. Prof. PhD at the Sociology Specialization, The Faculty of Social Sciences and head-editor at Beladi Publishing. He is the head manager of the Research and Marketing Department of the *Oltenia* Social Institute from the University of Craiova, executive manager of the Exit-Poll Institute and member of the Project and Research Department from the Faculty of Social Sciences. He is specialized in studying culture and materializing sociological monographs and field investigations.

Cristina OTOVESCU-FRASIE, is Lecturer et University of Craiova (Romania), Faculty of Law. Her main research preoccupations are in the domain of human rights. In this area, she is the author of a treaty regarding the *International Law of Human Rights*, published in 2008 in Germany, and of a several studies on this subject published in national and international journals. Other research preoccupations: discrimination, minorities, social inclusion.

DISCUSSANT BIOGRAPHIES

Radu PETCU teaches in *Basics of Civic Culture in Political Sociology*, *Globalization and Its World-wide Challenges*, *Political Science and Development Policies* at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova; he brought his contributions in the field of academic specialization with specific studies, courses (democratization and democracy consolidation; theory and practice of lustration policies; political participatory levels in relation to political culture); scientific research contracts (analyses of political environments and business opportunities, of regional security regimes in relation to political strategies, of social integration programs addressing continuous professional training, of pilot-projects approaching the political viability for administrative configuration and development of re-designed economic regions in Romania); published academic courses: *Political Science and Development Policies*; *Globalization and Its World-wide Challenges*; *The concepts of* peace *and* international order *in Nicolae Titulescu's political and diplomatic vision*; and scientific articles published in international and national academic publications and conference volumes (the European Union and its patterns of social, political, economic development, projects of a newly invented European identity; citizenship and multi-culturalism; value-pluralism and theories of social justice).

Matija SINKOVIC, (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social sciences) Born in Zagreb, where he graduated sociology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. In 2006 he did MPhil course in "Modern Society and Global Transformations" at the University of Cambridge, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. His MPhil thesis topic was "Male Infertility, Donor Insemination and Masculinity: Croatian Case". Currently he is employed at the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb where he teaches Classical Sociological Theories, Introduction to the Sociology of Culture and Theory Construction in Sociology.

Bojan GLAVASEVIC was born in Vukovar, Croatia. He graduated general linguistics and sociology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social sciences in Zagreb; a PhD candidate in general linguistics. His scientific interests include sociolinguistics, ethnic studies, semiology and artificial intelligence.

Marilena BOGHEANU, director of ADR Oltenia (Regional Development Agency) is involved in many projects which have for purpose the increase of the prosperity and encouraging the investments in the South-West Region. She is involved in a lot of projects with a major impact on the region s development.

Gabriela MOTOI – Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova and member of *Oltenia* Social Institute. She is also Editor in Chief of the *Universitary Journal of Sociology*, journal published under the aegis of University of Craiova. She has a M.A. in Communication and Sociology. The research areas are: contemporary sociology, sociology of work and human resources management. The main research preoccupation is related to the rapports between higher education and the European requests of the labour market.

Silviu COPOSESCU – Professor, PhD at *Transilvania* University of Brasov. He is member of CASIPIS Romania (The Commission against Poverty and for Social Inclusion), member of the editorial board of the Journal *Sociologie românească.* Research area: anthropology.

Adrian OTOVESCU – Assistant Professor, PhD, Department of Communication and Public Relations, University of Craiova. He is member of the *Oltenia* Social Institute and coordinator of the Department of Research on Public Opinion. Member of the Association of the Sociologists from Romania. Research areas: communication, migration theory, Romanian immigrants from Italy.

Gabriel PRICINA – Associate professor, Ph.D., University of Craiova. Member in the team of research of over 30 field researches, in collaboration with *Oltenia* Social Institute. He has a Bachelor degree in Communication and Sociology His main research preoccupations are: rural and urban sociology, human communities.

PARTICIPANT LIST

Rimona Afana, MA Student, University "Spiru Haret" Bucharest, RO

Article: Social Advances - in between Theory and Practice. Romania's Move towards
Modernization from a Youth NGO Perspective

Abstract:The presentation explores some of the multiple dimensions involved in Romania's envisaged modernization as well as the myriad current deficiencies negatively shaping society. As the perspective adopted mainly stems from personal practical involvement within the so-named "third societal sector", other matters likewise come to the foreground: the status, ambitions and accomplishments of non-governmental bodies, as well as the general view Romanian youth take on self-development, their prospective opportunities and upon society at large.

The true impact of civil society actions turns questionable if acknowledging active citizenship as more of a construct and less as an overall noticeable feature within Romanian affairs. Also, the practical emergence of such intensely promoted concepts such as good governance rests on variables that appear complexly intermingled, giving way to mounting uncertainty regarding Romania's genuinely moving towards a model of open, modern, democratic, prosperous society. While advances signaling modernization are being nonetheless occasionally spotted, development however appears corrupted by various hindrances ultimately resulting in vicious circles. A thorough integration of stakeholders' pleas within decision-making, as well as platforms serving collaboration and exchange of good practices are either lacking or deficient. By and large, key issues such as participation, accountability, transparency stay gloated over desiderata, but still object to careful consideration and especially practice. Shifting focus, this glimpse over current affairs includes the promotion of potential sustainable solutions and examples of NGO initiatives attempting to correct current negative trends.

Dumitru Batar, Professor, PhD., Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Article: Dynamisc of family structures in Romanian society

Abstract: Starting from different forms of unfunctional manifestations of the familly, it is questioned if this will lead to its crises and/or its disappering as a form of social organization and reproduction. This pessimistic perspective may be amendet by the knolege of the way the familly evolves succeeding the sexual reproduction that ensures the blod relationd between parents and children.We are bringing under attention the opinion as which the familly will have a dynamic continuity of its social life, even if other opinions claim that the marriage, as a starting point, loses its consistency without omiting various changes that it may suffer.

Maria Batar, Professor, Onisifor Ghibu College, Sibiu, RO

Article: Changes in the Rural Communities from Romania after 1990

Abstract: The rural communities have sufferd in constant mode different changes in their evolution. But, certain processes and phenomenons have intensified those changes that it is under debate almost radical transformations of those communities. After the 1990, romanian village has known consistent changes regarding four important dimesions: a) in the level of organising the tipe of proprerty after the socialist production units and distributing the land fields to the old owners; b) in the level of life quality and life standards; c) in the level of infrastructure and the forms of economical activities organization; d) in the level of family life – a lot of families have varieted the economical activities, addapting to the „post traditional" and „post rural" way of life.

Daniel Chirot, Professor, PhD, University of Washington, USA

Article: Does Democracy Work in Deeply Divided Societies?

Abstract: The sad fate of recent political reforms pushed on the Middle East and on some African countries should make all of us skeptical about the value of blanket recommendations to promote democracy as a universal solution to the problems of autocratic and corrupt regimes. As the cases of Iraq and Lebanon in the early 2000s have demonstrated, if ethno-religious communities that compete with each other place their own values, interests, and loyalties above those of a theoretical national welfare, then stable democracy is impossible. This is all the more so if such competition is viewed as being zero-sum, with gains by any community necessarily resulting in equal losses by the others.

Silviu Coposescu, Professor, PhD, Transilvania University of Brasov, RO

Article: The Consequences of Globalization

Abstract: The article claims that the notion of globalization, beyond its simplistic, dramatic/nostalgic interpretations designates an emergent contradictory process, which affects society and the human condition in mostly unforeseeable ways. If change is a paradigmatic state of social life, globalization is the cause of the intensification of present-day individual and collective social changes. The structural and behavioral social changes nowadays, under the form of turbulences and crises, are the consequences of the process of globalization. The article brings forward arguments that present-day globalization determines the emergency of some individual and collective societal structures different from those known in the period of modernity (Giddens). Globalization can be no longer defined and understood simply as 'fusion' or 'implosion' of humanity as a whole, or as a singular entity (Robertson). Such an interpretation is counter-argued by the tensions between the universal vs particular tendencies and the identity crisis, or the tensions between the uni/bipolar and multipolar world-order. So, globalization can be thought of as a particular form of institutionalization of the world-order. Consequently, it is desirable and justifiable to try to find out alternative models of globalization. This means that philosophy and social sciences should focus on the critical analysis of the concept of globalization, simultaneously engaging in empirical investigations of the characteristic features and consequences of globalization.

Constantin Craitoiu, Assistant Professor, PhD., University of Craiova, RO

Article: The Difficulties of Integrating the Labour Market of Young Graduates. The Relation between the Educational Offer and the Needs of the Labour - Market

Abstract: Have you ever met in the last few months with a graduate that hasn't yet found a place to work? Have you talked to him about what he thinks his future has to offer him? Have you noticed his state of unrest, even panic? Have you discovered in his confused look the image of a completely uncertain future, the fear of what is to come and the concerns that maybe the worse premonitions may confirm, that he won't find a place to work and if this still happens it will be an under paid and unqualified one? Without any doubt the description does not embrace all concrete situations, but it underlines a state of mind of the young graduates characterized by doubt and uncertainty. The out of proportion fear of professional failure but the extension of some prejudices also rise questions concerning the relation between the educational system and that of labour force. The essay describes in details the difficulties of entering and integrating the labour - market of young graduates, and studying their problems underline the functional limits of the relation between the educational system

and labour - market whereas the professional integration of the graduates is a very appropriate criterion for establishing the quality of the higher education.

Gheorghe Florescu, Lecturer, PhD, University of Craiova, RO

Article: The Institutional Impact of the Regional Cooperation

Abstract: The paper analyzes aspects of cross-border cooperation within the Euroregions, related to the legal framework and the institutional impact of the exercise of Euroregion functions, considering as a model "Middle Danube- Iron Gates" Euroregion which includes Mehedinti county (Romania), District of Vidin (Bulgaria) and the districts of Bor and Branicevo (Serbia). The communication interest centre emerges form the identification of problematic elements of regional cooperation between two countries in European integration process (Romania and Bulgaria) and a country at the edge of the European Union border (Serbia), all three countries having old cross border cooperation traditions which, unfortunately, are not able to operate considering the European integration current demands.

Sorina Folea, Ph.D., University of Bucharest, RO

Article: Evolution of the delinquency phenomena in Romania

Abstract: In the actual Romanian social changes, criminality and juvenile delinquency are phenomena that have an extreme proportion. This research, made at PMT Craiova, tried to point out the way that young prisoners relate themselves to their own acts and to social rehabilitation. The answers to the questioned ones pointed out that the crime acts are linked more to defaults of the base group (family, school) then to models of macro group (films, television). Reciprocal the representations to the questioned ones to future perspectives orientates more to the search of a stabile micro group (family, job), then to macro solutions (emigration, or searching the institutional aid).

Mihai Ghitulescu, Assistant Professor, PhD, University of Craiova, Faculty of Social Sciences, RO
Article: Global Themes and (Anti)Globalist Populism in Today's Political Rhetoric

Abstract: Despite their frequent use, the words "globalization" and "populism" are two of the most ambiguous terms used in media as well as in academic debates.
This paper aims to provide a speculative outline of how politicians from various countries present, positively or negatively, global themes (e.g., global warming, terrorism, new media revolution or, more recently, the economic crisis) in view to persuade the members of a particular community or, conversely, of how they "globalize" some particular themes (e.g., poverty, conflicts etc.) in view to gain more audience and international reputation. Furthermore, we suggest a discussion, asking in what measure the deployment of the globalization is affected by the (anti)globalist rhetoric.

Adrian Hatos, associate professor PhD, University of Oradea, RO
Article: Natural born leaders? Organizational career and community involvement in present day Oradea

Abstract: The article investigates the relationship between the organizational careers of residents of condominiums from Oradea - holding leadership positions before or/and after 1990, belonging to the regime's organizations and their present day social activism. Data from a random sample of 300 shows that a rich organizational biography correlates with

high level of community involvement. The results are discussed from a theoretical point of view and considering their consequences for politics of community development.

Michael Hechter, Professor, PhD, Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, USA

Article: Alien Rule and Its Discontents

Abstract: It is commonplace to explain nationalist movements by adverting to the demand for national self-determination. Indeed, nationalism is frequently *defined* in precisely these terms. Discontent with alien rule -- the obverse of national self-determination – is often assumed to be pervasive, if not universal, thus accounting for the absence of an international market in governance services. There is no shortage of explanations of the antipathy to alien rule, and a great deal of corroborative evidence. Many believe that people seem to prefer to be badly ruled by their own kind than better ruled by aliens. Yet if this is true, then identity trumps competence in the assessment of rule, implying that we are all liable to suffer from sub-optimal governance. In contrast, this paper argues that the evidence for the pervasiveness of antipathy to alien rule is overdrawn. To that end, it distinguishes between two different types of alien rule -- elected and imposed – provides a brief portrait of each, and suggests that when aliens are confronted with incentives to rule fairly and efficiently, they can gain legitimacy even when they have been imposed

Camelia - Angela Jurcut, Lecturer, PhD, Aurel Vlaicu University of Oradea, RO

Article: Christian Prayer Restores the True family in Jesus Christ. Signals regarding the Desanctification of the value of family life in a resumed modern life

Abstract: The family home is the society's unit. If the family home dies out, then the individual dies out due to moral, spiritual, psychological fading. The family is a legal and ethical institution, the natural blood link is the sole space where the man is born, is feeding, is loving, is loved, becomes sociable and happy, obtaining the national and individual identity and conscience. There is a need of good families in order to receive a better world which nobody is able to make unhappy. The living conditions for women and children are very though when there are no families. People need social protection because they need to overcome their problems and they have to be healthy in order to come back to the bosom of the society. The efficient activity for social assistance is a pragmatic method of the problem's management besides catechesis and preaches that we give to the persons regarding the way in which we have to behave within the family. People's behaviour has a double aspect: self respect and respect towards your peers. The purpose is to overcome the crisis period, whose consequence is a low natality, which brings to our biological disappearance. The CHURCH tries to patronize the human relations, especially the family ones.

Mihaela Lambru, Senior Lecturer PhD, University of Bucharest, RO

Article: An Assessment of Public Consultation Practice in Romania

Abstract: In the last 20 years we assist to a growing interest of governments around the world for public participation. New forms of public participation are emerging in various democratic countries, new frameworks and methodologies enabling public participation are experimented and implemented in different contexts. At the same time, citizens around the democratic world, formally organized or not, shows more interest in participating in policy debates, asks for more transparency and accountability from Government side. Romania makes no exception from this trend of growing interest for public participation. In the last six

years in Romania the country registered a strong development of institutionalized or non-institutionalized mechanisms for public consultation and public dialogue, including legislation framework development, new institutions dealing with support programs for public participation, good practices development. All those elements are taking place within the country wide framework of good governance and public administration reform.

Gigica Mareș, PhD., University of Bucharest, RO

Article: Public institutions and their role on the development of civil community
Abstract: Notion of public institution designates on the one hand, a state or organization engaged in social, cultural, administrative, and on the other hand, represents a form of social organization, according to legal norms established in the areas of activity like health, social, political, cultural, education. These institutions are involved in all the plans in the structures of civil society to involve citizen in different state: membership is a nongovernmental organization, union or employer's organization. Due to the increasing involvement of public institutions in community life notion of civil society has acquired a broader sense, is now called the non-profit or the third sector of society. It includes non-governmental organizations, communitarian organizations, professional associations, trade unions, environmental movements, media. In the field of local administration representatives must be leaders in promoting cooperation and civic participation, and because this is a new idea for many people, all representatives will have to have this initiative. As in the field of public administration institutions representing other areas of public interest collaborate with civil society, are permanently at its disposal.

Mesesan Schmitz Luiza, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Transilvania University of Brasov, RO
Article: Health indicators in Romania
Abstract: The present paper aims to draw attention to one Romanian social problem namely the population health condition. In the diagnosis and defining the magnitude of this problem it is necessary to examine the indicators of the population health condition comparatively with the other world states, and this matter is the present paper objective. It will be carried out a synthesis of the main categories of indicators which can be used in problem examination and it will be emphasis the practical utility of every indicator type. In the end, on the basis of the examinations Romania will be placed in the world states hierarchy and there will be outlined possible solutions in order to improve this problem.

Gabriela Motoi, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

Article: How did globalisation affected education and labour market from Romania?
Abstract: The effects of the globalisation are found at every level of the society. In the European education the effects of the globalisation are present starting from the last decade of the XXth century, if we think at the passing to a society based on knowledge, at the uniformisation and creation of the European Space for Higher Education. In this period, the globalisation of economical, social and political life becomes more and more evident and the role of education becomes more and more important. The principles of the actual education are tolerance, respect for *others*, despite the cultural, religious, ethnic and linguistic differences, principles that have the role to prepare young people to live in *global society*. Globalisation may have also positive and negative effects on the labour market and education. To avoid the negative effects it must be implemented certain reforms, but in the first time it must be repaired the lack of communication between education and labour market, because the experience of the developed countries showed us that it is almost

impossible to build an economy based upon knowledge, a competitive one, without solving the gap between the affairs community and that of research and education domain.

Florian Olteanu, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

Article: Considerations about the global importance of the Roman citizenship

Abstract: After the conquest of the Mediterranean world, Rome extended all ist institutions in its provinces. The Roman citizenship was a dream which was firstly gave to the inhabitants of the Italian Penisnula (88 B.C.) and after that to the inhabitants of the cities which obtained the title of *colonia.* The Roman citizenship was also accorded to all militaries which served in the auxilliary formations attached on the Roman legions (formed by Roman citizens) during 25 years, toghether with their wifes and children.
In 212 A.D., the Roman Emperor Caracalla (211-217) gave the *Constitutio Antoniniana*, which offered the Roman citizenship to all the free inhabitants of the provinces excepting those which opposed to the Roman rule by war, uprisings and their cities were completely destroyed (named *dediticii-subjects*).
From the third century, the Roman citizenship was a world citizenship, from Atlantic to Caucasus and Eufrat and from the mountain chain of Alps and Carpaths to the Sahara desert.

Adrian Otovescu, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova, RO

Article: Politics regarding the Immigrants in Western Europe and U.S.A.

Abstract: In the last decade of the XXth century, there has been produced a big increase of the international spatial mobility. The departures from the native areas and the entrances in the new countries, the social, economical and cultural consequences, generated by emigration and immigration, the legal or not legal character of the immigration imposed a control on the global migration. In this way, the states from the societies in which was a big immigration pressure have been forced to adopt legislative measures to limit the negative effects and to maximize the positive ones, being elaborated in this way some special politics in the domain of the migration.

Dumitru Otovescu, Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

Article: „They have done the past, what do we do for them?"

Abstract: This study is the result of activities of documentary focussed on two human communities constituting together a single unit of social life: villages Caciulatu and Floran, Terpezita villages. Until collectivization two neighbouring villages were in a process of economic growth. After two collectivization communities have entered the demographic and social decline. Now we are witnessing the consequences transformations political and economic that occurred along the time: depopulation diminution of the villages, declining economic and population ageing unapt for exploiting the potential agricultural area.

Cristina Otovescu-Frasie, Lecturer PhD, Faculty of Law, University of Craiova, RO

Article: The young people's right to migration for studying abroad

Abstract: Throughout this article we have studied the migration of the young people that left Romania with the purpose of studying abroad. We have initially presented the legislation from Romania regarding the Romanian citizen regime of free circulation abroad and then

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The Bologna Process that has in view the agreement between the higher educational systems in order to realize a European Space of the Higher Education until 2000. The number of the young people that left the country for studying aboard, on both the European continent and the American one, increased from one year to another after 1990, either if they went there as scholars or if they paid their own school taxes. Most of them chose the universities from Western Europe, especially France and Germany, particularly for licentiate's degree studies but also for master's degree and doctor's degree courses.

Cristina Marijana Pasatoiu, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, University of Craiova

Article: The Impact of Pre-accession Funds Implementation in the South West Region of Oltenia

Abstract. The active enlargement and integration process of the European Union, culminating with the largest extension towards East Europe, brought forward one of the most challenging undertaking for the 15 old member states, enterprise which was further challanged by the global economic crisis and the globalization process. The economic and social disparities gap between the EU regions was further increased with the last two enlargements - May 2004 and January 2007. Such challenging socio-economic context required the full attention of the European Union member states which took the decision, legally enforced by treaties, Council Directives and Commission Communication , of development and reform of the European Regional and Cohesion Policy. The current article focuses on the impact of the pre-acession funds in the South West Region of Oltenia. The analysis is based on primary data, colected from the institutions which were in charge with the funds implementation.

Florin Pasatoiu, Lecturer, PhD Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO
Radu Petcu, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO

Article: Partnership – Rhetoric or Reality?

Abstract: The current article looks into the purposes of partnership, various roles of different partners in different settings and evolving local policy context; contribution of NGOs partnership to local programme efficiency, programme effectiveness, structural change, innovation development; transparency and legitimacy based on an increased accountability of local governments to the local constituencies; factors which influence partnership arrangements including maturity, history, roles, range of partners, strategic and operational dimensions and constraints, costs, and capacity; influences on partnership and involvement of NGOs in the regions concerned;

Maria Pescaru, Lecturer, PhD, University of Pitesti, RO

Article: Socialisation's Role throught the Educational Group in Preventing Delinquent Behavior in Minors

Abstract: The educational group is always a formal group, constituted on the basis of some institutional requirements and by the distribution of different roles to educators and to the learned that are in different obligatory reports, reglemented and controlled from a social point of view. It is a group of forming, of modeling of some capacities and personality traits, of learning some components, of assimilating the necessary knowledge and abilities.
The manifestations of tense and conflictual states can be generated by a series of anomalies in constituting the group purposes. The existence of a system of norms is one of the fundamental   premises of constituting and maximum functioning of an educational

group. The norm doesn't function just as a reglating arm of pupils' behavior, but also through their content, that converts in personality contents. The degree of abiding the group laws constitutes also the appreciation criteria of deviant conduct and of grupal marginal phenomena. The normal framework and social dimensions of the instruction were genreally less studied and deepened. Recent research show that the major significance of these aspects in forming a personality. The so-called "scholar society" has certain rules of own functioning. Scholar reality has a transitory characteristic, this is why certain modalities of organizing and functioning (using the time, discipline, tasks' efectuating, etc) have a certain artificiality, which makes of them just an exercise of the future social role.

Also one could say that in any society school promotes preponderant the traditional models, even inflexible, sometimes out of date as opposed to the social changes and with the socio-cultural environment of young age. Actually, it is the situation of the over-disputed problem of the conflict between generations in which, one has to admit , the elder express themsleves through conservatorism and sometimes intolerance toward teenagers.

Marian Preda, Professor, PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, RO

Article: Successive and Overlapping "Romanias" - Social consequences of temporal/generational and geographical (local, sub-national and regional) disparities in Romania -

Abstract: As a result of inefficient social and economic policies, the Romanian welfare system has been confronted before and after 1989 with extremely difficult problems; One category of them consisted in successive disparities between social contexts and opportunities associated to successive generations of Romanian citizens borne, educated and employed in different periods. Milestones such as the beginning of the communist regime, the 1966 antiabortion decree or 1989 Romanian revolution as well as intermediary social processes have created differences between generations of citizens with major social consequences. On the other hand there have been huge disparities between various geographical entities within Romania that will be approached in this paper:
- Area/geographical differences
- Urban-rural differences
- Dependent social segments

For indicators such as level of economic development or level of social development between former communists countries Romania is midway down the list, in a way similar to its geographical location, i.e. midway between its western neighbors (Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic) and the countries of the former Soviet Union (with the exception of the Baltic States).
Anyway, the national values measured for economic and social development indicators fail to provide an accurate picture about the widely diverging conditions that characterize the regions, counties, towns and villages within Romania.
Inside Romania there are lots of disparities in terms of development and living standards that are usually ignored by international statistics as well as by strategies and development plans. As a NATO member state and as an EU member state Romania should be understood in its entire specific and sometimes peculiar features. Some of them had been inherited from the communist period and some new other have emerged during transition. Are all above mentioned differences well known by the citizens and by political decision makers?

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Gabriel Pricina, Associated Professor, PhD., University of Craiova, RO

Article: Considerations upon the legislative, historical and social context of the agricultural reforms

Abstract: This study is focusing on the historical evolution of the right to property in Romania. The class structure from different period of times influenced also the property on the agricultural fields. The historical context determined a lot of modifications regarding the property. The agriculture was a part of a complex universe, in which the popular culture was formed by work activity and the main events of day-life. The historical periods in which it was created and maintained the equilibrium between all this components are those in which it was registered the biggest productivity in the rural economy. The lacks of property, or of any other real cultural support, represent obstacles in the evolutionary process of the rural environment.

Dumitru Sandu Professor, PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, RO
Article: What is the best community development model in current time rural Romania?

Abstract: The paper is an exploration in the history and diversity of practices for community development in Romania as to identify which family of them could be more appropriate for the current situation in Romania. The empirical cases that are examined are those associated with Romanian Social Develo_plemnt Fund and LEADER approach in comparison with the old ones of "Sunday cultural circles" (Spiru Haret), "School comittees" (Constantin Angelescu), "cultural house" (Dimitrie Gusti) and the long lasting nachbarschafts from Transilvania. The key dimensions differentiating them are : centrality of the informal leader, degree of formal or traditional institutionalization , degree of endogeneity-exogeneity and the degree of small community- microregion orientation. One of the key conclusion of the paper is that the challenge of the cultural and development diversity in rural Romania of today could be meet only by high diversity of community development models and prevalent orientation towards the models that incorporate partnership and competition for easy available resources for local development.

Ionuţ Serban, Assistant Professor, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, RO
Article: Revolutionary plans of constitution of the statal unity of Romania and Italy between 1848-1866

Abstract: The revolution of 1848-1849 spread in the entire Europe being the first movement which tried to change the political European order. Even it was defeated, until 1852, the revolutionarires from France, Italian states, Hungary and Romanian Principalities would make an „European revolution", its plans ending with rhe proclamation of the French President Ludovic Napoleon Bonaparte as Emperor of The France as Napoleon III and with the Crimeean war (1853-1856). Napoleon III would realize a generally revolution in the Northern Italy, occupied by Austria, in Croatia, Hungary and in Transilvania, with the help of the Romanian Prince A.I.Cuza. Napoleon was ready to accept a change of Venice ceased to Italy with Walachia and Moldavia ceased to Austria. Even the Italian diplomats would like the plan, Romanians and Austrians disliked it because of the problem of Romanians from Transilvania persecuted by Hungarians. Hungarians would not cooperate with Romanians because they accepted in the „Saint Stephen's Hunagry" which included Transilvania, only one nation, that of Hungarians.
The context of the European politics in 1866 represented by the Austrian war with Prussia in the competition of uniting Germany did not help the revolutionary plans which ended after the Pressburg peace and the Italian gain of Venice.

Eugenia Udangiu, Lecturer, PhD, University of Craiova, RO

Article: The "Globalization" of Knowledge: Transdisciplinarity
Abstract: One of the most interesting aspects of the postmodern intellectual movements regards the critic of scientific knowledge and the problem of discourse legitimation. My special interest goes to an issue determined by the perspective that consider a scientific theory as a "closed universe", a particular "language game" governed by its own specific rules which cannot be transferred to another system. I think that some of these particular "language games" have, at least, conscious or unconscious "patterns of thinking" in common, which enable us for a global (transdisciplinary) approach of some problems.

Ancuta Vamesu, Advocacy Adviser, FPDL

Article: Partnership and participation in regional planning and programming
Abstract: The article focuses on challenges of putting the Partnership principles of the Structural Funds into practice in Romania . Effective participation of relevant stakeholders in regional planning and programming involves effective local governments and civil society actors that understand principles of economic development and can place the agendas of the their communities into a larger context. She will look at the results so far in Romania and lessons to be learnt for future action.

Claudiu Coman, Professor, PhD, Transilvania University of Brasov, RO

Article: Forms of Active Citizenship and Participation of Public Opinion in Electoral Campaigns
Abstract: Public opinion is an essential medium for the political parties as a support of mobilization, not only for the election, as a limited period of time, but also in the wider context of sustaining the political authority and legitimacy. The public or the public opinion is the receiver of the political communication that can be direct or mediated by the media. This whole process takes place in the public territory. Political parties depend on the functionality of the communication process in order to be in connection with all potential electors who need information to legitimate their choice. In accordance with the pragmatic speech, the mediatic practices extend the public space and also the social participation when debating the public agenda.

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- Catalyzing and enhancing civil society activism
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