

Dear Colleagues,

Just that day in which the conflict in the Ukraine was becoming more complex due to the Russian intervention, an e-mail arrived from the President of ECSA Ukraine. There was attached the report you will find in this newsletter, about the last activity that was developed by our colleagues in that country, in December last year.

Of course, from the perspective of the European studies we only can be in sorrow about what is happening in this part of Europe and we can only hope that the dialogue, that is essential to our scientific task and a key issue in the European Studies, will be possible.

Moldova is close to the Ukraine. I am lucky to have been there, invited by the president from one of our youngest members. They have been able to organise an impressive seminar for around 50 teachers at secondary schools and I had the occasion also to have an insight in two of those schools. I wanted to express my gratitude also in this newsletter. I hope many of our associations will be able to develop programmes for transmitting the knowledge about the European integration to those professionals who are mediators in forming the new generation.

Best regards,

Enrique Banús

Two ECSA Germany activities on February

On the 11th of February 2014 it took place in the Representation of Baden-Württemberg in Berlin an ECSA Germany (AEI) workshop to present the volume: "To conceptualize European disintegration - train and opposing forces in the European integration process" recently published in AEI.

What is more, the German ECSA together with the University of Innsbruck and the Academy for Political Education Tutzing, organized a meeting under the title "The European Parliament - change of function and task profiles 2014-2019". It took place on the 14th and 16th of February 2014 at the Academy for Political Education in Tutzing (south of Germany).

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Inside this Issue:

Two ECSA Germany activities

"Learning EU at School through Dialogue and Exchange of Experience"

- Report from the ECSA Moldova president Vasile Cucerescu

- Study visit in pre-university educational institutions from Bihor country, Romania

ECSA Romania attended the Workshop for academic analysis 'European integration and the EU-Latin America and the Caribbean relations' from Chile

**EU-Ukraine relations
The 125 year's celebration of the anniversary of Jean Monnet**

An ECSA UK Seminar analyzes the relationship between the EU and the countries in the Western Balkans

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'Learning EU at School through Dialogue and Exchange of Experience'

Report from the ECSA Moldova President Dr. Vasile Cucerescu

ECSA Moldova (Chisinau, Moldova), in partnership with ECSA World (Damme, Belgium), Institute of International Relations of Moldova (Chisinau, Moldova), International University of Catalonia (Barcelona, Spain), National School of Political and Administrative Studies (Bucharest, Romania), University of Oradea (Oradea, Romania), "Alexei Mateevici" Pedagogical College (Chisinau, Moldova) and "ProSucces" High School (Chisinau, Moldova) held on February 20-21 2014 at the Hotel Villa Verde in Chisinau the international seminar on "Dissemination of good practices in learning EU at school: the experiences of Spain and Romania". The seminar was designed for high school teachers within the project "EU in Close- Up", supported by the European Union within the Jean Monnet Programme.

The event was attended by professors from Spain, Romania, professors and teachers from Moldova. The objectives of the seminar aimed at presenting a comparative perspective on the experiences of Spain and Romania in learning EU at school and at analyzing the results of the study visit in pre-university educational institutions from Bihor County, Romania.



The Jean Monnet academic coordinator, Associate Professor Dr. Vasile Cucerescu moderated the opening session, followed by three workshops animated by the partners involved in the project. The major emphasis was placed on

extended experiences and the contribution of expertise from both the speakers and the participants.



The President of ECSA World, Prof. Dr. Enrique Banus, tackled relevant processes outlining the case of Spain. Prof. Dr. Enrique Banús emphasized the teacher's role of initiative – "*Todo depende de las iniciativas de profesores*" – in the assimilation of European best practices nationwide. Prof. Dr. Enrique Banús mentioned about the paradigm shift in the perception of the European Union, referring to the new generation.

The Director of the Department of Political Science and Communication Sciences, Faculty of History, International Relations, Political and Communication Sciences, University of Oradea, Associate Professor Dr. Cristina Matiuta together with Associate Professor Dr. Dorin Dolghi, member of the Department of International Relations at the same faculty, presented the Romanian experience regarding learning EU at school.

Good practices from Spain and Romania highlighted the added value of the formal and the informal components of education on knowledge about European integration at school.

This exchange of experience intensified the dialogue with local, regional and European educational actors and gave an insight on implementation strand of continuity of the learning process.

Study visit in pre-university educational institutions from Bihor County, Romania

The day after the seminar took place, there was a session at "Alexei Mateevici" Pedagogical College and "ProSucces" High School, both in Chisinau, Moldova.



Prof. Banús and the figure that represents Germany

In the first one, at "ProSucces", president of ECSA World Enrique Banús and vice-president of ECSA Romania Ioan Horga talked about European integration to students studying the last year of Secondary School. They also gave answers to all their questions. Students were specially fascinated by the possibility of studying abroad and by the benefits of being part of the European Union. In Moldova, "ProSucces" is the only inclusive school, which means that students with a physical and mental disability that they receive a specific support also attend classes.

The other visit was at "Alexei Mateevici" institution, where there is an Euro-Club. Professors participated to one of the regular activities which consisted of making mixed groups of professors and students with the aim of explaining the educational system in a EU member state and represent it symbolically by a play dough figure. Professor Banús' team represented Germany and they made the figure you can see on the picture.

ECSA Romania attended the workshop for academic analysis 'European integration and the EU-Latin America and the Caribbean relations' from Chile

On the 15th of January 2014 the University of Chile hosted the academic analysis workshop entitled "European integration and the EU-Latin America and the Caribbean relations", that examined the development of the European integration processes and focused on the relation maintained between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the event participated Professor Iordan Gheorghe Barbulescu, PhD., president of ECSA Romania, Ambassador Pablo Cabrera, director of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Thomas Lagathu, representing the Embassy of France in Chile and Ms. Camila Ladies Jipa, the Romanian Consul in Chile. Among the guests that took part at the workshop we will also mention the Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration and director of the Europe-Latin America relations Center (CELARE) – Mr. Marco Moreno, Mr. Héctor Casanueva and the director of the Asia-Pacific department of UCEN – Ms. Carolina Cabrera.

The agenda revolved around strengthening the academic cooperation between Romanian and Chilean universities – so that it would develop and promote the exchange of values and experiences of the two regions – and emphasized the preparation of a discussion agenda for the second academic summit EU-ALC, that will be organized by the Institute of Latin-American Studies (ISLA) and held in Bucharest between 26th and 27th of May 2014.

Information from ARRISE website

An ECSA UK Seminar analyzes the relationship between the EU and the countries in the Western Balkans

“Incoherent, Inefficient and Unrealistic? Integrating the Western Balkans into the EU” is the title of the last UACES (ECSA UK) Arena Seminar that took place last 17th of December 2013. This type of Arena seminars are an innovative series of lunchtime seminars in Brussels that gives academics a forum in which to present their ideas and to make an impact with the people that matter. They are organised in cooperation with the University of Kent (Brussels) and hosted by The Centre, which is part of the Edelman Brussels multinational firm.

This time, Dr. Soeren Keil from Canterbury Christ Church University presented his research on the relationship between the EU and the countries in the Western Balkans and examined

the EU’s processes of enlargement policy and external state-building. The discussion sought to assess the successes and failures of the EU in the post-Yugoslav states.

The Soeren Keil presentation was followed by a panel discussion featuring: MEP Doris Pack (Member of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo), Jean-Eric Paquet (Director for Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, European Commission DG Enlargement) and Alexandra Stiglmayer (Senior Analyst, European Stability Initiative). The seminar was moderated by Martin Porter (General Manager of Edelman Brussels).

EU-Ukraine relations The 125 year’s celebration of Jean Monnet

On the 2nd of December 2013 the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in European Studies at the National University of "Kyiv - Mohyla Academy" with support of the Ukrainian European Studies Association – UESA (ECSA Ukraine) hosted the international round table “The Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. What is Next?” in honour of 125 year anniversary of Jean Monnet.

Distinguished academics and experts in European studies from Ukraine, Belgium and the Netherlands discussed the impact of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius on political, legal and economic systems of Ukraine and new challenges for the EU-Ukraine relations caused by refusal of the Ukrainian government to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

Participants of the international round table issued a statement condemning the refusal of the Ukrainian government to sign the EU-Ukraine association agreement and escalating violence against peaceful protesters on Maidan. Representatives of the Jean Monnet Programme provided comprehensive information about new opportunities for Ukrainian academics in area of European studies under the framework of Erasmus + programme.

Article sent by ECSA Ukraine President Roman Petrov, complemented with information from the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence website.