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Project Presentation Jean Monnet Chair “EU’S ROLE IN THE EMERGING INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM” (EUREIS)

Liliana BENIUC, PhD, Associate Professor

Victor JUC, Dr habil., Professor, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova

CONTENTS:

- 1. Overview of EUREIS**
- 2. Aim and objectives of EUREIS**
- 3. Teaching component of EUREIS**
- 4. Main activities of EUREIS**
- 5. Expected outputs**
- 6. Impact of EUREIS**
- 7. Conclusions**

1. OVERVIEW OF EUREIS

- The **Jean Monnet Chair project “EU’s role in the emerging international system” - EUREIS**, No. **101126798**, is implemented by **Moldova State University** under the **Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Chair programme**, with the support of the **European Education and Culture Executive Agency**.
- The project runs for **36 months**, from **1 September 2023 to 31 August 2026**, with a maximum grant of **EUR 50,000**.

1. OVERVIEW OF EUREIS

The EUREIS concept arose from the need to deepen European studies in the Republic of Moldova:

- amid profound geopolitical transformations in the international environment;
- the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine;
- the strengthening of the EU's security and defence dimension;
- the granting of candidate country status to the Republic of Moldova.

In this context, **EUREIS** seeks to contribute to:

- understanding the EU's role in the emerging international system; and
- strengthening academic knowledge of European integration, European security and EU migration policy.

2. AIM AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF EUREIS

- Develop teaching, research and knowledge dissemination on the EU by highlighting its role in the contemporary international order;
- Analyse the Republic of Moldova's European integration process and the security challenges affecting the EU and the Republic of Moldova;
- Create a sustainable academic framework for promoting European studies at Moldova State University;
- Encourage undergraduate and master's students' interest in European issues;
- Strengthen dialogue between academia, policymakers, civil society and the media in the Republic of Moldova.

2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF EUREIS

- Investigate European integration and the EU's role in international relations;
- Teach university courses on the EU in the international system, European integration and migration as a factor in European security;
- Promote communication between academia, public authorities, civil society and the media;
- Disseminate information on European integration and the European Union's global role.

3. THE TEACHING COMPONENT OF EUREIS

- **“The European Union in the International System”** - course instructor: **Victor JUC**, Doctor Habilitatus in Political Science, Professor, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova;
- **“European Integration”** - course instructor: **Liliana BENIUC**, PhD in Political Science, Associate Professor;
- **“Migration as a Factor in European Security”** - course instructor: **Ludmila GOLOVATAIA**, PhD in Economics, Associate Professor.

These courses enable undergraduate and master's students to analyse:

- the development of European integration;
- the EU's foreign and security policies;
- international and cross-border cooperation;
- the challenges that migration poses to European security.

4. THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF EUREIS

- Activities include university lectures and seminars, **1 national scientific conference with international participation, 2 national roundtables and 3 training sessions.**
- According to the project description, the teaching component comprises **810 hours**, while the target group includes **more than 100 participants annually.**

Academic events addressing European issues have been organised within the project.

- For example, the roundtable **“The Role of the European Union in Addressing Global Problems”** was organised in 2024 and 2025 as part of the EUREIS Jean Monnet Chair. It addressed **EU-Republic of Moldova relations, candidate country status, EU cooperation with international organisations, the Common Foreign and Security Policy, migration and asylum.**

5. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The EUREIS project's planned deliverables include:

- Publication of 10 research articles in national and international journals;
- Preparation and publication of 3 sets of course materials:
 - 1) **European Integration** (for undergraduate students in non-specialist faculties);
 - 2) **The EU in the System of International Relations** (for first-year master's students in Diplomatic Studies);
 - 3) **Migration as a Factor in European Security** (for undergraduate students in the Faculty of Economic Sciences);
- **3 syllabi for the courses taught;**
- **3 proceedings volumes covering 2 roundtables and 1 national scientific conference with international participation;**
- **Information materials on the methodology of teaching the “European Integration” course.**

6. THE IMPACT OF EUREIS

The project's impact extends across several dimensions:

- **Teaching:** the project contributes to modernising the educational provision of Moldova State University by incorporating specialised European studies courses into its curricula;
- **Research:** the project encourages research on the EU, European integration, European security and international relations;
- **Society:** EUREIS brings knowledge about Europe to a wider audience, strengthening dialogue between the university, state institutions, experts, civil society and the media.

Through its activities, the EUREIS Jean Monnet Chair contributes to:

- **increasing interest in European integration;**
- **strengthening European academic culture;**
- **deepening understanding of the European Union's role as a global actor in a changing international system.**

CONCLUSIONS

- **In the emerging international system, the European Union is establishing itself not only as an economic and normative actor, but increasingly as a geopolitical and security actor.** Recent crises have prompted the EU to strengthen its instruments for foreign policy, security, defence, democratic resilience and the protection of its external borders.
- **The EU's role in the contemporary international order is defined by its capacity to translate norms into instruments of political influence.** Through the EU acquis, enlargement policy, democratic standards, EU conditionality and external partnerships, the EU has a structural impact on countries in its neighbourhood.
- **EU enlargement has become a strategic instrument for regional stabilisation.** For the Republic of Moldova, the prospect of accession can no longer be understood solely as a technical process of legislative harmonisation; it is also a mechanism for security, institutional modernisation and geopolitical anchoring in Europe.

CONCLUSIONS

- **The Republic of Moldova provides a relevant case for studying the EU's transformative power.** Its European path makes it possible to analyse how the EU influences democratic reforms, public administration, the rule of law, national security, the economy and social cohesion in a country exposed to regional geopolitical pressures.
- **The emerging international system requires the EU to move beyond the traditional model of “normative power” and develop effective strategic autonomy.** This entails faster decision-making, coordination among Member States, investment in defence, energy security, cybersecurity and efforts to counter hybrid threats.
- **The EU's role in regional security is inseparable from the resilience of its partner countries.** In the Republic of Moldova, European support must be examined in terms of stronger institutions, reduced internal vulnerabilities, protection of the information space, human security and society's capacity to withstand external pressures.

CONCLUSIONS

- **European integration is not only a legal and administrative process, but also a social, cultural and identity-related one.** The Europeanisation of the Republic of Moldova involves both transposing the EU acquis and strengthening democratic political culture, public trust, intercultural dialogue and civic participation.
- **For researchers, the EU's role in the emerging international system opens up an interdisciplinary field of enquiry.** It calls for approaches from political science, law, sociology, economics, history and geopolitics that can explain both the EU's transformation as a global actor and the transformation of partner countries as they draw closer to Europe.

In conclusion, **the European Union** can no longer be analysed solely as a project of regional integration; it must also be understood **as an actor reshaping the international order.**

For the Republic of Moldova, its relationship with the EU is not merely a foreign policy choice, but **a strategic project for security, democratic modernisation and the affirmation of its European identity in a profoundly unstable international context.**

*Thank you
very much!*

<https://eureis.usm.md/>
e-mail: liliana.beniuc@usm.md