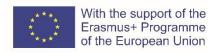
## CLAUDIA ANAMARIA IOV Coordinator

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# THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE AGE OF (IN)SECURITY From Theory to Practice





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Security is silent.

*Insecurity is loud.* 

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Transnistria – an Insecurity Zone in the Eastern Neighborhood
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### **PREFACE**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the course of history on the European continent is known for a dynamic, trans-national and transcultural process dominated by two types of antagonistic evolutions: on the one hand, we have the European construction phenomenon of *the United States of Europe* and on the other, we see the movements for national identity and an important number of Eurosceptics, in the context of Brexit, refugee crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the spirit of Jean Monnet's desire to *Continue, continue, there is no future for the people of Europe other than in union,* the objective of our volume is to analyze the process of the European construction, the road to the United States of Europe, with a focus on the challenges and issues the Union is currently facing, from illegal migration, to the refugee crisis, fake news, populism, insecurity, the Eastern Partnership, the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic and its effects on the European economy. For the European Union's citizens, security was, is and will be a top priority.

The volume is proposing a transdisciplinary, multilevel approach from a historical, economical, geopolitical, sociological and security-related perspective regarding a highly important issue in the European Union. The volume brings to the fore an important issue on the international arena, namely the enlargement vs. integration debate in the European Union. The book is part of a constructivist approach with a dynamic perspective on the political, social, economic, military and societal, where the actors and the system structure are interconnected.

In the context of globalization, insecurity takes on new dimensions with ample reverberations in the economic, political, military, social,

demographic and societal fields of the European Union. The volume has eight chapters. The first chapter is focusing on building the discourse on migration in the European Union, with special attention given to different nationalist speeches. The second chapter mainly focuses on the curricula, Schools of thought and institutional approaches to security studies in the 21st century. The aim of the third chapter is to emphasize and explain how attitudes towards diversity are being perceived both by people with immigrant background and by natives living in today's culturally heterogeneous Germany, followed in the fourth chapter by a sociological reflection on the migration of Romanians returning home. The fifth chapter brings to the fore ways of fighting misinformation in the European Union. The sixth chapter is focusing on the efforts to re-launch the economic activities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The last two chapters are focusing on the Eastern Partnership of the EU, highlighting the case study of Moldova and Transnistria.

The European Union in the Age of (In)Security: From Theory to Practice volume is a research and analysis tool created within the Jean Monnet Project Building A Better Future – Learning EUrope@School: Education for Democracy, Security, Diversity and a World of Youth, (OurEUrope) for students, professors, researchers, stakeholders, politicians, specialists on international relations and security studies. This volume is also a guide for the general public interested in the evolution of the European Union, today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities. The Jean Monnet Project was co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, at Babeṣ-Bolyai" University, between September 1st, 2018 and August 31st, 2020.

A group of professors from "Babeş-Bolyai" University, the Department of International Studies and Contemporary History, from the Free International University in Moldova, from "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy in Bucharest, the "Aurel Vlaicu" University in Arad, the "Constantin Brâncuşi" University of Târgu Jiu and from the "Lucian

Blaga" University in Sibiu contributed to the creation of this volume. The authors' analysis approaches encompass the strategy of promoting the European ideal of competence, competitiveness and professional quality of research in the field of international relations. Thank you for all your hard work! I truly appreciate your commitment to science and research.

The volume will be offered to the partner schools, high schools and universities involved in the project activities, to libraries, local and national profile institutions, decision-makers, media partners and representatives of the civil society.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all those involved in the implementation of the Jean Monnet Project *Building A Better Future – Learning EUrope@School: Education for Democracy, Security, Diversity and a World of Youth, (OurEUrope)* and in the creation of this volume for the human and professional quality they showed in the implementation of activities, for the support provided, their expertise, quality materials and for the beautiful memories.

Claudia Anamaria Iov Cluj-Napoca, September, 2020