

## ECREA TWG COMMUNICATION AND THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

### 2017 Annual Report

#### 1. Research:

Our TWG has organized a series of events in autumn, taking place in Cracow and Bucharest. Under the umbrella of the UACES Annual Conference, the EPS TWG organized two panels in Krakow, focusing on **EU's responses to the Crises in the European Public Sphere**, chaired by Jozef Niznik and Alina Bârgăoanu. The presentations featured themes such as strategic communications from and towards the EU, Brexit, and defence union, but also included a debate on conceptualization of the European Public Sphere, Europeanisation and crises to name a few. A third panel under the title **Reporting Europe, Reporting Migrations** was chaired by Malgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska. It addressed the nexus between national identity and public discourse on EU free movement of persons, the refugee crises and EU news coverage during British elections.

On 7-8 September, 2017, in Krakow (Poland) the ECREA Communication and the European Public Sphere TWG seminar: **'The development potential of the European Public Sphere'** took place. The event was hosted by the Institute of Journalism, Media and Social Communication of the Jagiellonian University and gathered scholars from Germany, Denmark, Tunisia, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland. The seminar was opened by a lecture 'The European Public Sphere in Question: Current Dilemmas' given by prof. Teresa Sasinska-Klas. Succeeding sessions moderated by Malgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska dealt with such topics as: Europeanization of public spheres in times of crisis, Europeanisation and peripheralisation of the public spheres as well as the EU Communication Strategy. The seminar provided a forum for discussions on a number of issues related to the European communication, ranging from Brexit and migration to security and defence in the EU27. The seminar participants considered also the role of social media, quality of information and communication trends in Europe such as fragmentation and polarization. The papers presented various theoretical approaches, interesting empirical case studies, comparative analyses and critical reflection of the situation in Europe. As a result of debates in Krakow a special book issue will be published soon. On the 5th October, the EPS TWG had a dedicated panel in the framework of the **Qualitative Research in Communication Conference**, hosted by the National University of Political Sciences and Administrative Studies in Bucharest (Romania). Centred around the topic of narratives and counter-narratives of European integration, the panel covered a wide range of subjects. Strategies of legitimization, youth identity and post-Brexit identity in Romania, as well as financial crisis, information sharing discourses and narratives on reforming Europe were heatedly debated among scholars and professionals, moderated by Alina Bârgăoanu. One of the highlights was the

assessment of the campaign Romanians adopt Remainians launched in the aftermath of the Brexit referendum.

In April 2016 – April 2019, the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), including ECREA C&EPS TWG, is engaging in the process of implementing the following project: '**State of the Nation – designing an innovative instrument for supporting public policies**' (SIPOCA 11). The objective of the project, supervised by Prof. Univ. Dr. Loredana Radu, is developing and introducing joint systems and standards in public administration for optimizing decisional processes focused on citizens and the business environment, in agreement with the Strategy for Consolidating Public Administration.

In Jan. 2016 – Dec. 2017 a research project entitled '**European public sphere: the EU facing contemporary challenges**' was undertaken at the Faculty of Management and Social Communication of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. The project, lead by Dr. Malgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska, included activities in the framework of ECREA C&EPS TWG. The aim of this research project was to analyze the state of public sphere(s) in Europe. The subject of research was: communication in the EU and the role of the media in shaping public spheres and their reference to contemporary integration and disintegration processes in Europe.

### **Doctoral research:**

Prof. Bârgăoanu coordinates 13 PhD students who focus on European communication, Europeanization topics, and the European public sphere (please, see above). Doctoral research on EU communication and the European public sphere represents an essential key area of the Doctoral School at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, where prof. Bârgăoanu is based.

### **2. Publications**

Bârgăoanu, A., Buturoiu, R., Radu, L. (eds.) (2017). "Why Europe? Narratives and counter-narratives of European integration in the context of the refugees crisis.". Germany: Peter Lang).

Bargaoanu, A., Radu, L. .The austerity discourse in of the Romanian economic-political elites: Neoliberal or (pseudo)European?. In Kate Power, Tanweer Ali, Eva Lebduskova (eds.) "Discourse Analysis and Austerity: Critical Studies from Economics and Linguistics", Routledge (forthcoming, 2018).

Winiarska-Brodowska M. (ed.) (2017) Communication in Europe – special issue of *Zeszyty Prasoznawcze* (Media Research Issues), Jagiellonian University Press, 60 / nr 2 / 230 / 2017. Available at: <http://www.ejournals.eu/Zeszyty-Prasoznawcze/>

### **3. Academic Events:**

1. UACES 47 Annual Conference;  
[http://uaces.org/documents/events/programmes/krakow\\_research.pdf](http://uaces.org/documents/events/programmes/krakow_research.pdf)

2. 'The development potential of the European Public Sphere';  
<http://commlist.org/archive/all/2017-all/msg01225.html>

[http://www.media.uj.edu.pl/konferencje/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_TUDrLcWH\\_Q1h4/1384650/136802436](http://www.media.uj.edu.pl/konferencje/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_TUDrLcWH_Q1h4/1384650/136802436)

3. Special Panel of the ECREA Temporary Working Group "Communication and the European Public Sphere", held within the international conference on Qualitative Research in Communication (Oct. 2017); [http://centrucomunicare.ro/qrc\\_2017/ecrea.html](http://centrucomunicare.ro/qrc_2017/ecrea.html)

4. DHC event for prof. Ian Goldin and the State of the Nation Conference (Measuring Development in Turbulent Times) (Bucharest, Nov. 2015); special guests: prof. Ian Goldin, Oxford University; Matthias Rumpf, OECD, <http://conference.starea-natiunii.ro/index.php/about-the-conference/agenda>

5. Jean Monnet Workshop "Fake News, Propaganda and Strategic Communication" dec. 2017, <http://www.eucommunication.eu/workshop-jean-monnet-fake-news-propaganda-si-comunicare-strategica-in-uniunea-europeana/>

6. Series of guest lectures and workshops organized at the Institute of Journalism, Media and Social Communication of the Jagiellonian University. Among the visiting professors and experts were: Prof. Philippe Maarek – University Paris East UPEC, Anna Szymanska-Klich – president of the Institute for Strategic Studies, Pawel Surowiec PhD - Bournemouth University, Jean-Pierre Chapelle – former editor-in-chief of the Ouest France, Michal Lubina PhD – Jagiellonian University, Malgorzata Nocun – deputy editor-in-chief of the New Eastern Europe journal, Anastasiya Nurzhynska - National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy).