

## Editors' Note

The second Issue of the RJSP New Series, launched under the auspices of the Faculty of Political Science at SNSPA in December 2011, is being published in a new and improved format – to match both contemporary academic and esthetic requirements. Our Journal is also gradually becoming more substantial in contents in the frame of the domains that define RJSP, approaching an international agenda combined with domestic themes seen from a larger regional or continental perspective.

The present Issue consists of five articles and a book review. Two articles are coming from outside of the European Union – Russia and Nigeria. The topics approached are gathering a variety of research methods spanning from the political science arsenal to the global political economy range of methods.

The question of international migration is approached in Monica Alexandru's article. She focuses on the migration of laborers from an EU country to another, from Romania to Italy – thus touching upon the delicate free movement of labor issue in the EU. The migration of labor between the two countries represents at the same time one of the main dimension of the Romanian – Italian relationship and discusses a very sensitive political problem in EU these days: high levels of unemployment. Alexandru's article reveals certain trends, among which significant pay gaps between EU countries, followed by phenomena of employment of highly skilled workers from certain countries in EU in underskilled jobs in other countries.

The importance of competition in democracies is adequately emphasized in Alexander Sokolov's article. He documents the decreasing of competition in Russian politics, the “vertical of power” as he names at a certain point in his article. He particularly focuses on the decreasing levels of the political competition in the regions of Russia, but also the intensification of elite competition inside the dominant party of United Russia, as well as other phenomena at local levels. Sokolov is nuanced in his analysis of Russian political competition when he writes that “it would not be right to say that the political competition in the regions of Russia radically decreased. It was rather transferred from public into nonpublic form”.

The issue of ethnic minorities as a political issue in EU member states is a subject approached in Gabriel Andreescu's article on the Draft Status of National Minorities and its flows. Professor Andreescu is known for his preoccupations and record in supporting human rights in Romania and in Europe. His article represents a well informed and argued critique of the above-mentioned document – touching upon the status of the biggest minorities in Romania – Hungarian and Roma minorities. Instead of being a document leading to an improvement of the status of these minorities, the Draft proposed is rather eroding the democratic dimensions of the ways in which these minorities are organized, reinforcing an in-built nationalism of Romanian institutions.

The theme of political competition is also approached by other two authors: Alexandru Volacu and Iris Golopenta. They are testing a hypothesis related to party behavior, applying it to five Central Western European countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands) – regarding the lower performance of liberal parties. Their methodology as well as their comparative approach is proving that the empirically-based research is very important for our Journal as the contribution contrives to explain the dynamics of the liberal parties in Central Europe after the Second World War, when the liberal movement and ideology have failed to catch adequate electoral support. The main argument upheld by the authors is that most of the classical liberal values were undertaken and manifestly shared by other competing ideologies.

The last article of this Issue is dedicated to the relationship between China and an important African country – Nigeria. The authors of the article, Okoro, Ingwe and Ojong, are proposing an article meant to draw attention to the dynamic of the Sino-Nigerian relationship particularly in the last two decades, after the end of the Cold War. They are analyzing the patterns of the political-economic relationship between the two countries, placing it in the context of the prevalence of neoliberalism at the global level, making recommendations to Nigerian policy makers as to the importance of recalibrating their strategy in relation to China.

Finally, Issue 11 ends with the review of “Europe of the Future: Treaty of Lisbon” by Luzarraga, F. A. and M. G. Llorente. We considered significant, during this period of reassessment of EU’s fundamentals, to reappraise a chapter in the European Union history, as Lisbon seems to be the last treaty with constitutional charge for this entire construction.