

EDITORIAL

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ACADEMOS 2013 ***Reconstructing good society***

Europe is struggling for six years to get out of the economic crisis, a period in which the member states have conceived different political, economic and social strategies and reforms. Whoever takes an unbiased look at the European Union could see that there have been tried a considerable number of solutions, and their effects have proved unsatisfactory. Millions of people were laid off, tens of thousands of businesses have closed, states have declared war on bureaucracy, not only in Europe, and in short there was been declared financial and social austerity. Yet the solutions to crisis have generated more crises and not the end of it: from Greece to Finland, from Romania to Italy the number of youth unemployed increased, GDPs per capita decreased and the cost of living increased everywhere.

The European politician is completely caught in a vicious circle, whatever he may try to do in relation to the contemporary situation, any innovating reform or any populist perspective faces deep mistrust. But a politician cannot exist without votes and he is therefore forced to return to old images and old political clichés, such as nation, welfare, economy, EU etc. On the other hand, the citizens of the European Union are so different that some react positively concerning only some clichés and only a few of them react in the same way to all the clichés. Citizens of Western Europe look disappointed as the present is much worse than the past and the future seems increasingly bleak, talking about their children as the ‘lost’ or ‘sacrificed’ generation. Those from Central and the Eastern Europe, whose past has been disastrous, build now a future made of Western Europe's past, hoping – maybe later – to fulfil their dream of stable prosperity. Thus, it seems that what keeps Europeans together is their past, a mythologized past, and different according to each state – the myth of the Golden Age or desirable future. Therefore the European politician is forced to refer permanently to the mythical past of Europe when he speaks about the present or the future.

The conference is entitled the ‘Reconstruction of Good Society’ and is a tribute for what it was best in European history and was lost due to the recurrent economic and political crisis in the last years. But equally the project is intended to advance fresh perspectives on what should be the new European society, which will resist undoubtedly, even if the European Union will continue to exist in the same form or will suffer radical change. The policy forms are by

definition expressions of the social forms and phenomena. The society, as an expression of the dialectic between the social groups that are interacting and cooperating, continues to survive even after the collapse of political systems or radical reforms. The society must present and celebrate its values and principles and not just to commemorate them as being part from the past. And the existence and the continuance of these values – such as freedom, equality, solidarity and cooperation – will show that the Europe's best society is only in a process of transformation.

We dedicated a relatively broad area for the economic issues, although lately there is a heated dispute about the proximity of two fields: economics and political science. For this reason the three fundamental themes – society, politics and economics – were defined as key topics for discussion and analysis. In this context, we approached politics not only in the perspective of political actors and in terms of the behaviour of political actors or of the electoral system, but we intend to promote the administrative and public policy dimension which are essential today for strengthening the trust and solidarity of the European citizens.

The main reason for which EJST became involved in this project is once again its European dimension. On the other hand, a number of papers deal or contain interdisciplinary elements between religious aspects and Political sciences, and we mention here just few of the respective authors: Gabriel Andreescu, Alfred Bulai, Arkadiusz Modrzejewski, Tereza-Brîndușa Palade, Adrian Pop and others.

We would like to thank our collaborators, participants, and all the persons with administrative tasks who contributed to this annual conference.

Dr. Andrei Țăranu
Dr. Ștefan Stănciugelu
Dr. Alexandru Gabor

Andrei Țăranu is deputy dean at the National School of Political Sciences and Administration of Bucharest, Faculty of Political Sciences, Ștefan Stănciugelu is senior lecturer and Alexandru Gabor is associate assistant professor at the same faculty. They all acted as guest editors for this issue of the European Journal of Science & Theology.