



Partner Institutions:

State University Moldova, Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University & Istinye University Istanbul



**International Conference “Strengthening the European Union in Times of Strategic Disruption”
(5-6 May 2026, 2nd Edition)**

Agenda - May, 5th, 2026

09:00 – 09:30

**Ferdinand Conference
Room (Rectorat
Building)**

Registration & Morning Refreshments

09:30 – 9:50

Opening Remarks:

Prof. univ.dr.Liviu George Maha , Rector of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”
University of Iasi (TBC)

Conf. univ. dr. Alexandru Grădinaru, Vice- Dean of Faculty of
Philosophy, Social and Political Sciences (UAIC)

Prof.univ.dr. Virgil Stoica, Head of Political Sciences, International
Relations, European Studies Department (UAIC)

Moderator: Conf. univ.dr Corina Barbaros (Chair of AGORA 2026)

9:50 – 10:10

Welcome Speeches by Distinguished Professors:

Prof.univ.dr. Petre Dumitrescu (TBC)

Prof.univ.dr. Anton Carpinschi (TBC)

Prof.univ.dr. George Poede (TBC)

10:10 – 11:00

Keynote Session: Prof. Sorina Soare

University of Florence (Italy)

“When Liberal Democracy Stops Being the Only
Game in Town”

11:00 – 11:20

Q & A: Open Forum Discussion

11:20 – 11:30

Coffee Break



**11:30–13:00– Panel: Strategic Order, Security Architecture and Geopolitics
(In-Person)**

Ferdinand Conference Room

Session Chair: Professor Bogdan Ștefanachi (Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași)

Assoc. Prof. Liliana Beniuc & Carolina Budurina-Goreacii (Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova) – Civil Security, Societal Resilience, and Non-State Actors at the Eastern Frontier of the European Union

Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Valentyna Bohatyrets & Prof., Ph.D. Yaroslav Zoriy (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine) – Ukraine's Future Position within the European Security Architecture: A Catalyst of Shifts in the Global Order

Prof., Ph.D. Svetlana Cebotari (Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova) – VUCA, BANI, TUNA, and RUPT Characteristics of Shaping The New World Order

Prof, Ph.D. Bogdan Ștefanachi (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – The European Union: Polycrisis and the Possibility of a Strategic Identity

Asist. Prof., Ph.D. Olesea Țaranu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Romania's Foreign Policy – An Emergent Middle Power with an Implicit Grand Strategy

13:00–14:00– LUNCH offered by UAIC at Casa Universitarilor

14:00–16:00– Panel: Security, Risks and Societal Resilience (In-Person)

Ferdinand Conference Room

Session Chair: Lecturer Ovidiu Gherasim-Proca

Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Diana Hîrbu (Moldova State University) & Senior Researcher Marcel Benchechi (Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research, Republic of Moldova) – The Role of Statistical Data in Assessing Risks and Anticipating National Vulnerabilities

Ph.D. Student Vitalie Pîrgari (Moldova State University) & Andrei Fortuna (International Center for Cooperation in Education and Research, Republic of Moldova) – Risks, Vulnerabilities and Threats to National Security in the Context of Contemporary Transformations

Ph.D. Student Tudor Pașcan & Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Vladimir Borș (Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova) Insecurity in Contemporary Society: From the Psychology of Masses to Security Culture

PhD. Student Anatol Buzev (Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova) – European Solidarity and the Governance of Migration

Lect., Ph.D. Ovidiu Gherasim-Proca (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Voting as a Threat? Securitization in the Annulment of Romania's 2024 Presidential Elections

M.A. Student Nadiia Sarafinchan (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine) – Gastro-Diplomacy as a Tool of Cross-Border Cooperation



**14:00–16:00– Panel: Exploring the Security Environment beyond the Borders of the European Union
(Online)**

Session Chair: Assist. prof. Andrei Toescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași)

Ph.D. Igor Bucataru (Department of Political and Administrative Sciences, USM, R. Moldova) – Regulation and Organization of Elections in Autonomous Regions: The Experience of the Gagauz Autonomy in the Republic of Moldova

Assoc. Prof. Natalia Putina (Vice-Dean, USM, R. Moldova) – Fragility and Societal Resilience at the EU's Eastern Frontier: Civil Security Perceptions in the Republic of Moldova

Assoc. Prof. Ivanna Makukh–Fedorkova (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine) – Countering Disinformation in the EU and Ukraine: A Comparative Analysis of Approaches and Effectiveness
Assoc. Prof. Natalia Putina (USM, R. Moldova) – Democratic Fragility and Societal Resilience at the EU's Eastern Frontier: Civil Security Perceptions in the Republic of Moldova

Teaching Assistant Irina Cojuhari (USM, R. Moldova) – External Influence as a Double-Edged Sword: Peacebuilding and Division in the Republic of Moldova

Ph.D. Alexandru Roșca (USM, Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research) – Resilience and Protection of Critical Infrastructure in Modern Warfare: Strategic Lessons from the Ukrainian Experience

Ph.D. Samira Habibbayli (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences) – Azerbaijan and the European Union: the Strategic Significance of Energy Security in The Context of Contemporary Geopolitical Realities

Ph.D. Lecturer Svitlana Konstantynyuk (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine) – The Perception of Ukraine in Europe in the Context of the Russian-Ukrainian War: Main Challenges and Priorities Under Uncertainty

Prof. Vitaliy Makar (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine) – Possible Formation of a New International Security System under Current Conditions

16:00–16:15– Coffee break

16:15–18:00– Panel: Contemporary Challenges in European Democracies: Digitalization, Energy, and Social Cohesion

In-Person, Ferdinand Conference Room

Session Chair: Prof. Virgil Stoica (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi)

Lect., Ph.D. Ana Maria Andronache (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Digital Transformation and the Future of Political Power in European Democracies

Lect., Ph.D. Elena Simona Vrânceanu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – The Role of EU Institutions in Promoting Equality, Combating Discrimination, and Supporting Integration among Minority Groups

Prof., Ph.D. Virgil Stoica (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Energy Transition between Ideological Imperative and Physical Constraint

Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Liubov Melnichuk (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine) – Multicultural Foundations of Bukovinian Culture: Romanian Heritage and Regional Identity

Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Silviu Grecu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Polarized Attitudes in the BANI World: Institutional Fragility, Social Anxiety and Non-Linear Dynamics in EU Political Systems



**16:15–18:00 – Panel: Strategic communication, media and civic engagement
(Online)**

Session Chair: Assist. prof. Emanuel Zanoschi (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi)

M.A. Student Ana-Ştefana Covaciu (UBB, Cluj) – Rethinking Erasmus+ Motivations: An Exploratory Study Beyond Classical Approaches

Ph.D. Student Alboi Simona (UBB, Cluj) – The Fragility of the Common World: Fragmentation and Political Meaning in Digital Societies

Prof. Nikoleta Melnic, Assoc. Prof. Eugen Osmochescu & M.A. Student Corina Ajder (Moldova State University) Modernization of EU and Moldovan Diplomacy in the Context of European Integration

Asist. Prof. Dilhan Apak (Fenerbahçe University) – Digital Political Communication and Democratic Resilience in the European Union

Ph.D. Student Mirit Yemini (FEEA, UAIC) – From Workplace Participation to Societal Engagement: Employee Engagement in an Era of Strategic Disruption

Ph.D. Student Dursun Mustafayeva (ANAS, Institute of Oriental Studies, Azerbaijan) – Prospects for EU Integration and Cooperation in Türkiye–Kazakhstan Political Relations

Assoc. Prof. Bilgen Sütçüoğlu (İstinye University) – Protection, Obligation, but Moral Rhetoric? Normative Foundations of Civil Security

Ph.D. Student Alexandra Drăghicescu (ASE Bucureşti) – Algorithmic Bias in Contemporary Geopolitics in the Context of AI Act

PhD. Student Ciubotă Paula-Simona (UAIC Iaşi) – From Transition to Resilience: The Impact of Decommunization Policies on Romania’s Informational and Institutional Security in the EU Context



Agenda - May, 6th, 2026

9:00 – 9:50
Ferdinand
Conference
Room

Book Launch

Declinul democratic în România după 2007. Neoliberalism, populism, autoritarism

Author: **Associate prof. Dragoș Dragoman**

Guest speaker: **Lecturer Ovidiu Gherasim-Proca**

10:00 – 11:00
Ferdinand
Conference
Room

Keynote Speaker: Cătălin Vasile (Director of the Department for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in the Ministry of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship, and Tourism in Romania)

“The Algorithmic Frontier: How AI-Driven Disinformation Challenges Democratic Resilience and Institutional Trust”

11:00 – 11:15 : Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:00
Ferdinand
Conference
Room

Keynote Speaker: Aurelia Peru-Balan (Associate Prof., Moldova State University, former presidential adviser)

“The Relevance of Political Discourse in the Current Geopolitical Context”

12:00 – 13:00: Lunch Break

13:00–15:00– Panel: Democracy, Identity, Media and Political Behavior (In-Person)

Ferdinand Conference Room

Session Chair: Lect, PhD. Bogdan Mihăilescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University)

Lect., Ph.D. Daniela Zaharia, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Mioara Cristea, Lect., Ph.D. Oana Prundeanu & Assoc. Lect. Alexandra Gheorghiu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași / Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh) – European Identity and Civic Engagement among Young Educated Voters

Asist. Prof., Ph.D. Alexandra Gherguț-Babii & Asist. Prof., Ph.D. Andrei Toescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Youth Civic Engagement in the Age of Disinformation: The Role of Media Literacy

Ph.D. Student Andrei Botez (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Rethinking Emergency Services: Creative Innovation in Public Safety Systems

Lect., Ph.D. Bogdan Mihăilescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Theories of Democracy and European Perceptions of Security

Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Maria Corina Barbaros (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Decoding Modern Conflict: Hybrid Threat Dynamics and Security Culture among Young Adults in Romania and Moldova



15:00–17:00– Panel: Digital Diplomacy, Structural Dynamics and Public Policy

In-Person, Ferdinand Conference Room

Session Chair: Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Nihan Akıncılar Köseoğlu, Fenerbahçe University

Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Nihan Akıncılar Köseoğlu (Fenerbahçe University) – Digital Justice in Europe: Rights, Regulation, and Crisis-Driven Digitalization

Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Hazal Papuççular (Fenerbahçe University) – Digital Diplomacy as Digital Governance: The EU amid Global Crises

Ph.D. Student Dorin Alexandra (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – How the EIT Digital Master School Securitises Innovation to Sustain the European Union as a Technical and Normative Power

Asist. Prof., Ph.D. Emanuel Zanoschi (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Youth Education in the European Union: Public Policies and Practical Approaches

Ph.D. Student Ioan-Sebastian Buduroi & Asist. Prof., Ph.D. Victor Stoica (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) – Beyond the “Miracle”: Crime Reduction, Bitcoin Policy, and Executive Power in El Salvador under Nayib Bukele

M.A. Student Hera Susanyi (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași) – Civic Fatalism Among Young People: The Perceived Limits of Individual Involvement in Security Issues

AGORA Students’ Program

12:00 – 16:00

Debate Sessions

Session one: 12–14 (Lecture Room E 1.2)

Session two: 14–16 (Lecture Room E 1.4)

Program Coordinator: Lecturer Simona Elena Vrânceanu

12:00 – 14:00
Akademos

Workshop

Program Coordinator: Lecturer Ana Maria Andronache