

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

# At the EU Doorstep: External Perceptions of the EU by Candidate and Eastern Partnership Countries

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków

**At the EU Doorstep** is a workshop designed for students who are interested in Europe's future and consider that it will not only be shaped by the current EU member states but also by its neighbouring countries, their imaginations, expectations and (dis)illusions regarding the European Union.

Workshop participants will have the opportunity to:

- Understand the interplays between politics, media and narratives in the European context
- Examine the different perceptions of the EU that are at play in countries 'at the EU doorstep'
- Analyse the extent to which these perceptions have implications for European integration

**Apply to the Workshop 'At the EU Doorstep'!**

### Objectives and Structure of the Workshop

The European Union (EU) as a *sui generis* organisation on the international arena is a subject of many different narratives and representations. These images evolve based on the dynamics of integration on the European continent, as well as due to both internal and external events and factors. Furthermore, representations differ depending on given political and non-political actors. Recent academic literature thoroughly analysed the narratives on the EU from European member states' perspective<sup>1</sup>. Research hence highlights a "polyphony of narratives" triggering diverse understandings of what the EU is, which elements it is based on and what it brings to a country<sup>2</sup>.

In that respect, the one-and-a-half-day workshop "At the EU Doorstep: External Perceptions of the EU by Candidate and Eastern Partnership Countries" focuses on the images produced on the EU from the perspective of non-EU member states. The aim is indeed to investigate how the EU is perceived from the outside, focusing on countries holding deep links

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<sup>1</sup> Kaeding, M., Pollak, J. and Schmidt, P. (eds.) (2018). *The Future of Europe. Views from the Capitals*. Palgrave Macmillan.

<sup>2</sup> Lacroix, J. and Nicolaïdis, K. (eds.) (2010). *European Stories: Intellectual Debates on Europe in National Contexts*. OUP Oxford.

with the EU: candidate countries of the Western Balkans and partner countries from the Eastern Partnership.

Taking into account the context of enlargement and neighbourhood policies, students will have the opportunity to discuss the external perceptions of the EU from very specific countries, whose views are to a certain extent tangled with accession prospects and outside incentives. Thus, the workshop offers BA and MA students the opportunity to analyse, with the help of experts of the countries, different perceptions that the EU is subject to from its closest neighbours and partners. Two study options are in this respect proposed for students during the workshop:

- 1) The first one focuses on the EU candidate countries of the Western Balkans, i.e. Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.
- 2) The second possibility that students can choose from focuses on countries part of the Eastern Partnership, i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The workshop therefore aims at providing students with a deeper understanding of how the EU is considered and represented from the outside. The analysis of external perceptions will be based on different empirical materials collected by workshop leaders (newspapers, TV, Internet, etc.), which will also enable students to develop their methodological and analytical skills.

### Application Procedure

The application should contain:

- name, surname, level and field of study, academic interests;
- a short statement explaining the motivation to take part in this workshop (100-150 words maximum)
- the preferred study track<sup>3</sup>: Western Balkans or Eastern Partnership countries.

Application should be submitted to both [duszan.augustyn@uj.edu.pl](mailto:duszan.augustyn@uj.edu.pl) and [elodie.thevenin@doctoral.uj.edu.pl](mailto:elodie.thevenin@doctoral.uj.edu.pl) under the object 'Application Workshop' no later than **13<sup>th</sup> October 2019** (included).

Successful applicants will be notified promptly after the deadline.

### Additional Information

The workshop is free to attend. Please note that travel bursary, accommodation and food won't be provided during the workshop.

A certificate of participation will be awarded to participants.

The workshop is financed by the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Module 'Internal and external challenges to the European Union' and the Faculty of Political and International Studies of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. The workshop is supported by the COST ENTER Action 'EU Foreign Policy Facing New Realities'.

### Contacts

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<sup>3</sup> Students will be divided between the two study tracks. The preferred choice is not definite and the final repartition will be made by the workshop organisers.