

EDITOR'S PREFACE

During the last decade, the European Union has faced several internal and external challenges. The economic crisis and waves of mass migrations that started with the so-called refugee crisis of 2015 unveiled divisions not only between old and new member states, but also between southern and northern Europe. Recently, Brexit and the rise of populism and nationalism have brought new challenges and raised questions about the future of the European Union. Discussions on the future shape of the EU is also influenced by a turbulent external environment, including conflicts in neighbouring regions and the politics of its allies such as the United States of America. Also, the ongoing process of enlargement towards the Western Balkans seems to be much slower and more politicized than previous accession processes.

This issue of *Politeja* focuses on current European issues seen through different lenses and analysed in different contexts. The first part of the volume includes research on the perceptions of the EU's policies seen from an American perspective (Magdalena Góra), and studies of the EU elections (Małgorzata Kułakowska) and the ability of the Polish government to build blocking coalitions after Brexit (Marcin Kleinowski). The articles by Isidora Jarić, Haris Dajč and Nataša Jovanović-Ajzenhamer underline the role of the European Union and European integration in contemporary Serbian politics. This volume also includes two pieces tackling a more theoretical perspective (Jerzy Menkes and Anna Kociołek-Pęksa, Łukasz Perlikowski).

The second part of the issue presents the work of early-career researchers that took part in a graduate conference organised by Elodie Thevenin and Laura Royer on 8th February 2019 at the Centre for European Studies, Jagiellonian University, entitled *European Politics and Migration: Actors, Discourses, Practices*. The conference brought together graduate and doctoral students from all around Europe and was supported by the Faculty of International and Political Studies.

The last section of *Politeja* includes three research essays written by young scholars who participated in *Challenges to the European Identity – The Rebirth of Nationalisms in Europe*, a course run by Prof. Zdzisław Mach and Dr. Joanna Orzechowska-Waślawska

as part of the Jean Monnet Module *Internal and External Challenges to the European Union*, which has been taught at the Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University in Krakow for the last three years and has attracted students from various programmes offered at the Faculty of International and Political Studies, as well as international exchange students studying at Jagiellonian University. Their perspectives on the challenges that the European Union is facing today seem to be very instructive.

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