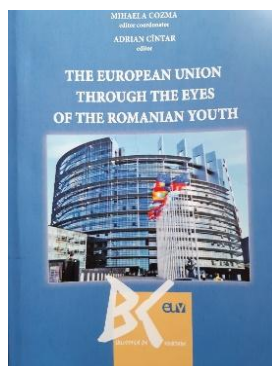


Romanian Youth on EU-Related Topics

Marcela Alina Fărcașiu *



Mihaela Cozma and Adrian Cîntar (Eds.) *The European Union through the Eyes of the Romanian Youth*. Timișoara: West University Press, 2021. Pp. 176.

As the world is becoming more and more globalised, young people and especially recent graduates, i.e. the future educated workforce, decide to start their professional careers and lives abroad. For instance, Romanian engineering students' migration intentions were found to be high due to the disadvantageous employment opportunities provided in Romania as opposed to those in other European countries¹.

These findings can also hold true for the students enrolled in the Translation and Interpreting Programmes, who also have the chance of working in the European Union and, more precisely, for the European Union Institutions, due to their competences and knowledge, translation being an important factor in intercultural communication².

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¹ V. Gherheș, G. M. Dragomir & M. Cernicova-Bucă. 2020. "Migration Intentions of Romanian Engineering Students". *Sustainability*, 12(12): 4846.

² D. Dejica. 2013. "Mapping the Translation Process: The Cultural Challenge". In H. Pârlog & L. Frențiu (Eds.), *Translating across Cultures: BAS 21st Annual International Conference*, pp. 11-24.

It is paramount that universities prepare their students for the challenges of their possible future jobs in the European Union by providing them with the theoretical and practical knowledge in this respect.

Therefore, Mihaela Cozma's endeavour to start a volume series stemming from the European Institutions course that she teaches at the MA programme of Theory and Practice of Translation at the West University of Timișoara is a clear benefit for the graduate students since this brings forth a perfect opportunity for them to research a lot of information on the European Union institutions and on the matters associated to them, which will prove useful in their future work as translators and interpreters.

The volume edited by Mihaela Cozma and Adrian Cîntar is thus a collection of 16 graduate students' research projects, delving into different topics related to the European Union. Starting with the mutual goals across the Member States concerning Europe's welfare from a cultural, societal, environmental and public health point of view, moving towards learning and working in the European Union, also touching upon the linguistic diversity and the need for translation and translators in the European countries, and ultimately discussing the challenges in attaining unity in diversity, the volume brings to light the Theory and Practice of Translation students' insightfulness and creativity. Hence, the book is structured into four sections, each seeking to present the main challenges that the European Union and its governing institutions face.

The first section, *From Individual Efforts to Shared Objectives*, shows Europe as a cradle, encompassing various cultures to create a place where people with different cultural and linguistic backgrounds meet, work and live, making efforts to create a united whole with the same mutual goals.

First and foremost, Maria Teodora Bistreanu's paper, *On Interculturality and EU Values*, discusses the importance of intercultural communication as Europe is a melting pot of cultures, stressing the need for tolerance and appreciation of another person's culture, even more so in the context of non-European, present-day migration. The cultural aspect is then followed by an analysis of the environmental conditions in which the Europeans live. Petru Munteanu Dorca's *A Greener and More Sustainable Europe* reviews the various ways in which people can fight pollution and create a safer place and better living conditions for themselves from a sustainable point of

view. Sebastian Ionuț Pavel offers another perspective on European unity and shared objectives besides the cultural and environmental ones. His paper, *Solidarity and Equal Rights in Sports*, sheds light on a very pressing societal problem, namely people with disabilities' social inclusion, offering suggestions on promoting solidarity in a very competitive way, i.e. through sports. The last paper in this section, Denisa Ungurean Mitroi's *Pandemic Legislation in the European Union*, deals with a still current and overwhelming topic, that of the pandemic, which is the perfect way to unite people ethically and emotionally when confronted with such a threat. By taking other pandemics as examples, it also posits the fact that writing legislation helps during such hard times as it makes people feel secure, creating order in a chaotic world.

The second section, *Work and Education in the European Countries*, examines the young people's transition from learning (as a result of exchange programmes) to working in the EU and for the European Union Institutions.

With the EU being such a mix of languages and aiming at preserving its diversity, it is clear that the work of translators and interpreters is of utmost importance for these institutions. In this context, Bogdan Damian's paper, *Translators and Interpreters in EU Institutions*, emphasises this aspect by offering insights on what it means to work in these positions. *Salaries and the Cost of Living in the EU. An Applied Comparison Between Romania and Luxembourg*, written by Ciprian-Victor Meteș, provides an analysis of the minimum wage and cost of living in two EU countries, Romania and Luxembourg, with the purpose of demonstrating that a common European directive on the level of the minimum wage would be unfavourable as the cost of living differs from one member state to another. The following two papers concentrate on the education system throughout the EU. If in her paper, *The Teaching System in the European Union*, Adriana Toma presents the role education and teachers play in the EU in order to create an inclusive society, better economic growth and a stronger intercultural bond, in *Exchange Programmes in the European Union and the Impact They Have on Students' Lives*, Ana-Maria Mecea's focus is on the recipients of the educational process, i.e. the students, and on the positive experiences the exchange programmes, such as Erasmus Plus, bring to their personal, professional and cultural fulfillment.

The papers gathered under the title *Language and Translation in EU* are centred around language and its different uses in the EU, debating the problem of language as part of culture (multilingualism), of written language as a legal genre (legislation), of language used as manipulation in politics, and ultimately as a means of communication through translation. The advantage of multiple languages being spoken and cultures being intertwined in the European Union is tackled by Diana Elena Șerban in *Multilingualism in Europe*, while Cristina Nicula seeks to find *The Lexico-Semantic Features of the European Union Legislation* since they represent real problems for translators and interpreters, legal genres being very complex and difficult to understand by laypeople. In *Language and Other Means of Manipulation in European Political Speeches*, Alina Diana Igreț analyses two speeches of the former President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, from a pragmatic point of view, in order to observe the way in which language can be used for manipulative purposes. Last but not least, in this section dedicated to language and translation, is Maria Cristina Miuțescu's paper, *Curricular Aspects Concerning the Acquisition of Translation Competence (ATC). A Case Study on the Cultural and Transfer Sub-Competences*, attempting to compare the translation competence acquired after graduating a Romanian master's programme specialised in Translation Studies and other European MA programmes, by analysing the questionnaires applied to the alumni of the Theory and Practice of Translation Master's Programme (West University of Timișoara) and to the potential employers on the Romanian translation market.

Section IV, *Is There Really "Unity In Diversity"?*, approaches again the immigration problem within the EU by presenting the cases of the Romanian immigrants and of the Gypsies, while also looking at the latest European events, such as Brexit, and analysing whether the coveted unity is a reality or merely a fantasy. Therefore, Cornelia-Patricia Grigoraș reviews the *Romanians' Image in EU* by offering a sincere perspective with pros and cons with regard to the Europeans' perceptions as far as the Romanians are concerned. In the same line of thinking, Armina-Ioana Moldovan examines *The Representation of Roma (Gypsies) in the Media*, emphasising the stereotyping and discrimination of the Roma people through these portrayals. Julia Barta provides *An Overview of Brexit* by giving a historical perspective and a timeline of the events as well as its future consequences not only

for the British people, but also for the remaining member states. Finally, David Arnăuț and Robert Braun close the last section by seeking to find answers to the pressing question: *Unity in Diversity – Achievement Unlocked?*, by discussing the “unity in diversity” motto, which stands at the heart of the European Union, and its applicability.

Consequently, this volume, edited by Mihaela Cozma and Adrian Cîntar and the first in a series to come, is a valuable resource as it introduces MA students to complex issues related to the European Union. Besides building considerable knowledge for their future work as translators or interpreters, the volume also stresses the importance of teaching such knowledge so that people “should become active European citizens”³.

³ G. Weissenro & V. Eck. 2009. “Concepts on the European Union—A Teaching Project”. *Teaching European Citizens: A Quasi-experimental Study in Six Countries*, Waxmann, p. 9.