

## Project notice

The project “ValEUs. Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy” has started in January 2024 and will last until the end of 2026. It is an ambitious project establishing a Jean Monnet Policy Network (JMPN) funded by 1.2 million euros within the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission. Among the 20 partner institutions from 17 countries on 5 continents, the project involves two institutions from Zagreb: Libertas International University and the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb. The two Zagreb project teams are comprised of Stipe Buzar, Vladimir Filipović and Damir Mladić (Libertas International University) and Marta Zorko, Petar Popović, Višeslav Raos, Borna Zgurić and Josip Lučev (University of Zagreb). The initiative is led by the European University Viadrina from Frankfurt (Oder) in Germany.

The aim of this project is addressing the current challenges facing the European Union, particularly its foreign policy and the challenges posed to EU values. The issues covered are of utmost importance to the European Union, and migration, asylum policy, and the enlargement process are highlighted as potential areas of systematic deviation from established normative standards. ValEUs main objectives are (1) to enquire into the various contestations of the EU values and provide a realistic account of EU Foreign Policy; (2) to learn more about potential and successful counterstrategies to contestations and develop an alternative policy agenda; (3) to promote a new role for universities as responsible actors, as laboratories for democracy and committed partners to endangered regions, such as Ukraine.

Methods and activities of the ValEU are diverse and take full advantage of the plethora of researchers and institutions that comprise the ValEU network. It includes plans to undertake joint interdisciplinary research projects, engage in teaching formats, and facilitate collegial exchange through conferences, summer schools, and a large-scale online course. The project is also designed to initiate social debates and develop recommendations for both political actors and civil society. Some of the most visible aspects of the project are the three large conferences. The first was already held in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2024, with seven participants from the Zagreb

teams. The second yearly conference is to be held in Zagreb in October, 2025 and the Call for Papers will be issued in the coming months. The final conference is planned for Frankfurt (Oder)/Ślubice in 2026.

*Josip Lučev*

# Međunarodne studije

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## International Studies

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