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(Coordinator)

CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR THE RULE OF LAW IN EUROPE



Dykinson, S.L.

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FOR THE RULE OF LAW
IN EUROPE**

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INTRODUCTION

This book contains the proceedings of the International Conference titled “Current Challenges for the Rule in Europe”, held at the Public University of Navarre (UPNA) on May 26th–28th, 2025, within the framework of the Erasmus+ Project “Europa”, supported by the European Union. Erasmus+ Programme; Key action 2: Cooperation partnerships; Sector: Higher education. PIC 999888029. Grant Agreement No.: 2022-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000086334, coordinated by Prof. Dr. Spasimir Domaradzki, Lecturer in International Relations at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Warsaw (Poland).

This Project has been carried out by a consortium also consisting of the following institutions: the Transylvania University of Brasov (Romania), the University of Belgrade (Serbia), the University of Zagreb (Croatia), the PAX Rhodopica Foundation (Bulgaria), and the Public University of Navarre (UPNA) (Spain), whose teaching and research teams were coordinated by the following university professors: Prof. Arabela Briciu, Prof. Ivana Radic Milosavljevic, Prof. Goran Santek, Prof. Hristo Berov, and Prof. Alejandro Torres Gutiérrez.

It was an honour for the UPNA to host this International Conference, which served as the closing event of the activities carried out in the context of this Project over two and a half years, between 2023 and 2025. The results are available on the Project’s websites: <https://www.europiaproject.eu/> and <https://www.unavarra.en/europa/>

The final conference was attended by around fifty specialists from all over Europe, from some twenty Universities and Research Centres, not only the Universities in the project consortium that financed it but also from other Academic Institutions with which a close working relationship has been maintained. A notable example is the UNITA alliance, of which both the Public University of Navarre (UPNA) and Transylvania University of Brasov are members. It contributed researchers from the University of Brescia, the University of Turin, and West University of Timisoara. The meeting was also attended by other European universities, such as the University of Coimbra, the Catholic Institute of Toulouse, the Catholic Institute of Vendee – ICES, and American universities such as Cornell Law School. The proposal was additionally extended to other

Spanish universities, specifically the Universities of the Basque Country, Navarre, Valladolid, Zaragoza, Barcelona, Pompeu Fabra, Miguel Hernández of Elche and Seville.

The results of this monograph serve to reflect on the main challenges facing the rule of law in Europe. These affect, for example, the complex mechanisms for the configuration of some state institutions, such as the governing bodies of the judiciary, and their correct functioning, and where problems can be replicated in a surprisingly similar way across the old continent.

Certain aspects have to do with the need to have solid electoral procedures, or to harmonise European legislation, in particularly sensitive areas in the field of taxation. Additional questions are related to the correct use of regulatory instruments, especially by executive power, faced with the temptation to resort to legislating by means of Decree Laws, and even the risk of not legislating on matters in which it is necessary to do so, leaving minorities unprotected.

Other topics analysed include those arising from the emergence of populism and the problems derived from it, or those related to digitalisation and artificial intelligence. Many opportunities and challenges appear disturbingly linked in this area.

The book also serves to build bridges of academic cooperation between universities in Eastern and Western Europe, allowing researchers to work together from countries that were at war not so long ago, as was the case in the Balkans,. From this perspective it offers a real practical example of what European integration means, and should mean.

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The results of this monograph serve to reflect on the main challenges facing the rule of law in Europe. These affect, for example, the complex mechanisms for the configuration of some state institutions, such as the governing bodies of the judiciary, and their correct functioning, and where problems can be replicated in a surprisingly similar way across the old continent.

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