

## Preface of the editors

**T**he new volume of the REGIO in co-operation with Challenge – The Changing Landscape of European Liberty and Security (An Integrated Project Financed by the Sixth EU Framework Programme) intends to cover certain questions related to security, ethnic relations, neighborhood policy and multiculturalism in the light of the eastern enlargement of the Union. Naturally, these papers cannot be isolated from the Challenge project’s aims and interdisciplinary approach.

The CHALLENGE project responds to widespread concerns about the resort to specific illiberal practices enacted by our contemporary liberal regimes. These practices are linked with the identification of increasing insecurities globally, insecurities that are widely interpreted as obliging sterner policies from the authorities and, consequently, new constraints on principles of liberty under law and presumptions about the innocence of individuals. Specifically, the project examines tensions created by claims that “security is the first freedom” and that a new “balance” has to be established to manage the global scale of contemporary dangers. The project especially focuses on the justification of these policies and constraints on grounds of emergency, necessity and prevention in a radically transformed global environment, and the impact these policies have on civil liberties, political rights and social cohesion. The project has thus far explored the following broad themes:

1. The apparent radicalization of specific forms of transnational political violence and its effects on liberal policies.
2. The threat assessments produced through technologies of risk management and the development of new technologies of surveillance – prevention, profiling, data transfer, biometric identifiers – and the degree to which “security” has been reduced to a need for surveillance and control.
3. The changing forms taken by logics of suspicion and practices of exception and derogation, especially in relation to established understandings

of the rule of law, to the multidimensional and continuous reframing of the enemy, and to the practices enabled by this reframing that are used to exclude or otherwise target specific groups.

4. The impact on the rights and freedoms of citizens and foreigners.
5. The relation between the internal and external impact of illiberal practices, especially in the context of transatlantic relations but also of an increasingly interconnected world order, and the place of the European Union in this world.

In connection with this panorama of concerns, the present volume examines the perspectives of new, fragile democracies with regard to newly obtained sovereignty and nation-building techniques on the one hand, and catches up efforts to bring integrated but illiberal practices to bear on migration and security management on the other, all under the roof of European integration. Post-socialist societies reflect a certain continuity with prior decades in popular attitudes, daily habits or a weak publicity while heroic work has been undertaken to find beneficial ways to face the past in a frustrated present. The export of prosperity, human rights and security control has not kept pace with the trade and exchange of capital. There are further secrets of a wider Europe yet to be uncovered. It is impossible to determine the major color of our enlargement rainbow but constitutionalism and cultural diversity will undoubtedly frame its picture.

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