



# THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

International conference  
Second edition

## Models and Perspectives of Cross-Border Cooperation in Central-Eastern Europe

Cluj-Napoca  
14-15 November 2025



### *About the conference*

In an ever-changing Europe, where challenges such as political tensions and military conflicts test the foundations of peace and stability, it is more important than ever to reflect on the core values that have shaped the European project. As Andrew Linklater describes in *The European Civilizing Process*, peace, economic development, a commitment to progress, and mutual understanding have long been at the heart of Europe's collective vision. How do these ideals hold up today, as Europe navigates complex global realities? What remains of the *European Dream* that Jeremy Rifkin so powerfully described?

Last year, we launched the conference *The World We Live In*, continuing a tradition of international academic events dedicated to exploring key issues in Central and Eastern Europe from an interdisciplinary perspective. This tradition includes six editions of Disintegration and Integration in East-Central Europe, organized by the Faculty of European Studies at Babeş-Bolyai University, and further developed through the European project **FRONTEM**.

This second edition of *The World We Live In* focuses on cross-border cooperation, marking the start of a series of annual international conferences inspired by the FRONTEM project.

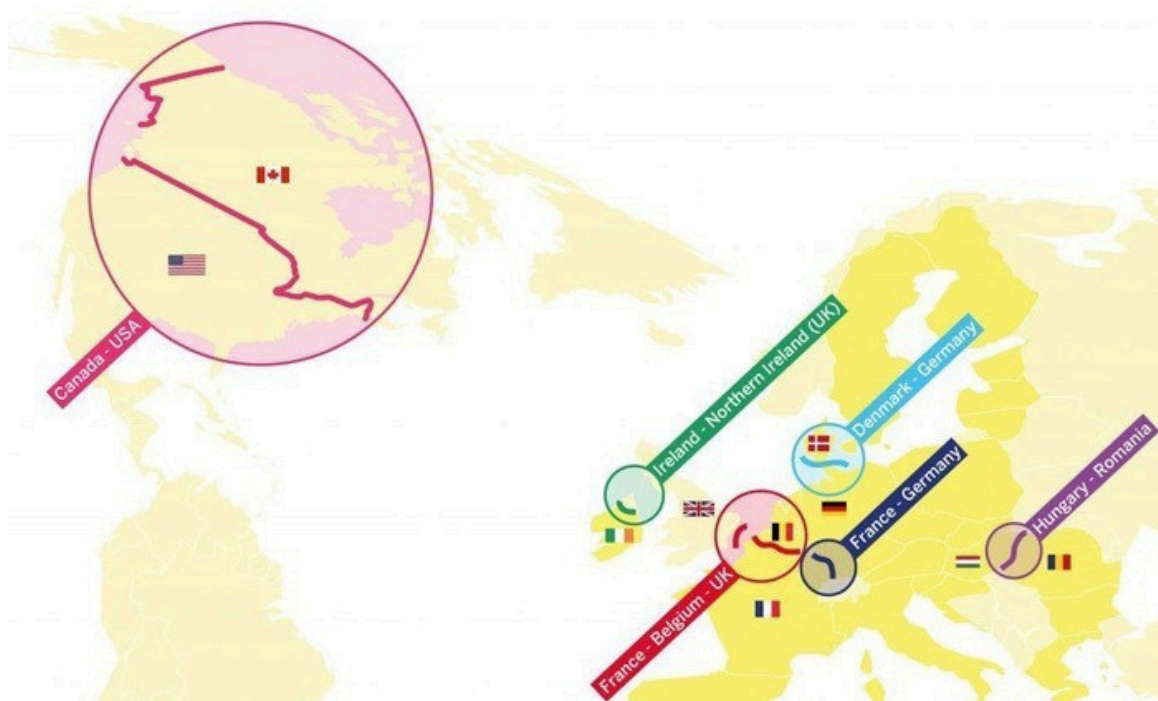
The Jean Monnet Network Borders in Motion (**FRONTEM**), launched in 2019 under the leadership of Sciences Po Strasbourg, brings together a diverse consortium of partners: the University of Southern Denmark, the Euro Institute in Kehl, the Centre for Cross-Border Studies in Armagh, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, the Catholic University of Louvain, and the University of Victoria in Canada.

Looking ahead, this program is set to foster an ambitious and impactful academic debate in the coming years, focusing on best practices in cross-border cooperation across Europe, with a special emphasis on the Central and Eastern European region. Our goal is to build a comprehensive database that supports scientific, academic, economic, and business collaborations—bringing Central Europe closer to cutting-edge research and innovation in the European Union.

We will continue this academic and scientific endeavor dedicated to cross-border cooperation, driven by the desire to develop, through databases, conferences, and representative works, the heritage of cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, by integrating best practices from Western Europe as showcased through the **FRONTEM** program. In this spirit, we express our gratitude to the academic institutions participating in the **FRONTEM** program, initiated by the University of Strasbourg and coordinated by Professor Birte Wassenberg. We also emphasize that we are associating this generous project with other actors from the academic and business environments—Bogdan Vodă University of Cluj-Napoca, the University of Alba Iulia, King Michael I University of Life Sciences in Timișoara, the University of Oradea, the University of Belgrade, the University of Pécs, Debrecen, and other business stakeholders involved in the development of cross-border exchanges. Romania's accession to the Schengen Area will certainly generate a new dynamic in cross-border cooperation.

We wish great success to the proceedings of our conference.

*The Scientific and Organizing Committee*



## *Scientific Committee*



Birte **WASSENBERG**, PhD – Professor and Vice-Chairperson, University of Strasbourg; Coordinator of the FRONTEM Project



Gyula **OCSKAY**, PhD – Secretary General, Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI)



Dragoș **PĂUN**, PhD - Associate Professor, Babeș- Bolyai University



Georgiana **CICEO**, PhD – Associate Professor, Babeș- Bolyai University



Mohammad **JARADAT**, PhD – Professor, Rector of Bogdan Vodă University



Gheorghe **NEȚA**, Professor, Bogdan Vodă University



### *Organizing Committee*


Enya **ÚJVÁRI-TĂMAȘ**, PhD – Bogdan Vodă University of Cluj-Napoca

Anamaria **IANOȘI**, PhD – University Assistant, Bogdan Vodă University of Cluj-Napoca

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**Friday, 14 November 2025**

## OPENING SESSION



Aula Magna, Babeş-Bolyai University  
Mihail Kogălniceanu Street 1, Cluj-Napoca

**9.00-09.30**

### **Registration**

**9.30-10.00**

### **Welcome speeches**

Adrian PETRUŞEL, PhD - Professor and Rector, Babeş-Bolyai University

Mohammad JARADAT, PhD - Professor and Rector, Bogdan Vodă University of Cluj-Napoca

**10.00-12.00**

### **Keynote speeches**

**Chair:** Nicolae PĂUN, PhD – Professor; Vice-Rector, Bogdan Vodă University of Cluj-Napoca

Birte WASSENBERG, PhD – Professor and Vice-Chairperson, University of Strasbourg; Coordinator of the FRONTEM Project

Acad. Ioan-Aurel POP, PhD – Professor and President, Romanian Academy

**12.00-13.45**

### **Lunch**



Casa Universitarilor Restaurant Em. de  
Martonne Street 1, Cluj-Napoca

**14.00-16.45**

### **Panel: Border regions in times of crisis – Challenges, Opportunities, and Integrated Perspectives in Central-Eastern Europe**



Room Reduta, Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania  
Memorandumului Street 21, Cluj-Napoca

**Chair:** Sergiu CÂRLAN, PhD – Bogdan Vodă University, Cluj-Napoca

Melinda BENCZI, PhD, Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI)

Elzbieta OPILOWSKA, Professor – University of Wrocław

Hynek BÖHM, PhD, Professor – University of Liberec

Peter ULRICH, PhD, Professor – University of Potsdam

**Friday, 14 November 2025**

**17.00-20.00**

## **Roundtable: Frontières en mouvement (FRONTEM) - Results and perspectives**



Babeş-Bolyai University Club  
Em. de Martonne Street 1, Cluj-Napoca

**Chairs:** Birte **WASSENBERG**, PhD – Professor and Vice-Chairperson, University of Strasbourg; Coordinator of the FRONTEM Project

### **Presentation from an actor's perspective: Focus groups and toolkit**

Simon **VANLICHTERVELDE**, PhD student, University of Strasbourg

Anthony **SOARES**, PhD – Director, Centre for Cross-Border Studies (CCBS), Armagh, Northern Ireland

Melinda **BENCZI**, PhD, Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI)

### **Discussion from a Euro-Atlantic comparative perspective:**

#### **FRONTEM members from other border regions (ONLINE)**

Oliver **SCHMIDTKE**, Professor, University of Victoria

Emmanuel **BRUNET-JAILLY**, Professor, University of Victoria

Bernard **REITEL**, Professor, University of Artois

Fabienne **LELOUP**, Professor, University of Louvain

Katarzyna **STOKLOSA**, Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Anne **THEVENET**, Deputy Director, Euroinstitute Kehk

**20.00**

## **Cocktail (offered by FRONTEM Network)**



Opus Society Restaurant  
Octavian Petrovici 1 Street, Cluj-Napoca

**Saturday, 15 November 2025**

**9.00-11.00**

**Panel: Legal Mechanisms and Economic Policies  
Investments - Best Practice Stories for Central  
Eastern Europe**



Room Reduta, Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania  
Memorandumului Street 21, Cluj-Napoca

**Chairs:** Mihaela LUȚAȘ, PhD – Professor, Babeș-Bolyai University  
& Georgiana CICEO, PhD – Associate Professor, Babeș-Bolyai  
University; Member of the Scientific Committee

**11.00-11.10**

**Coffee Break**

**11.15-13.00**

**Panel: Academic Opportunities in Cross-Border  
Cooperation – Successful Examples**

**Chairs:** Mircea BRIE, PhD – Professor, University of Oradea;  
Dragoș PĂUN, PhD – Associate Professor, Babeș-Bolyai University;  
Faculty of Business

**13.00-13.30**

**Discussion**

**13.30-14.00**

**Closing remarks**

Birte WASSENBERG, PhD – Professor and Vice-Chairperson,  
University of Strasbourg; Coordinator of the FRONTEM Project  
Nicolae PĂUN, PhD – Professor, European Paradigm Doctoral School,  
Babeș-Bolyai University; Vice-Rector, Bogdan Vodă University of Cluj-  
Napoca

**14.00**

**Lunch**



ZAMA Restaurant  
Napoca Street 16, Cluj-Napoca



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