

EASTERN REVIEW 2019, T. 8

Introduction

Dear Readers,

We are presenting you the 8th issue of *Eastern Review*. This issue is published in a changed formula – entirely in English. Our journal has received funding from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education under the Support for Scientific Journals Program, which aims to strengthen the level of internationalization of both the published content and the editorial team itself.

Accordingly, in this volume, the absolute majority of authors are from abroad: Belarus, China, Norway, Russia, Ukraine. The journal's Program Council and its editors have also been internationalized. From now on, the burden of the editorial process rests largely on the employees of the Chair of Political Systems of the Faculty of International and Political Studies, University of Lodz, accompanied by other members of the Faculty, as well as researchers from Lithuania and Ukraine. The journal is still published by the Lodz University's International Center for East European Research (ICEER) in cooperation with the Committee for the Study of Integration of Europe of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Lodz.

The scientific profile of the magazine remains unchanged. *Easter Review* is devoted to publishing cutting-edge research on the regions of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as post-Soviet area, viewed from political, social, economic, and cultural perspectives.

The volume focuses, first and foremost, on issues related to socio-political and cultural processes taking place in contemporary Belarus, in terms of educational, social and family policies (Larissa G. Titarenko, *Vectors of development in higher education of Russia and Belarus: A comparative approach*; Victor Laputsky, *The adaptation of students during academic mobility processes: The case of Belarus*; Ekaterina Rezanova, *The social policy of Belarus and the development of human potential: Problems and solutions*; Alena Artsiomenka, *The transformation of family values in Belarus: Social and demographic factors*).

Economic issues have also been highly relevant: foreign investment and economic activity in the region of Central and Eastern Europe (Ivana Jolović, Lošonc Alpar, *The impact of foreign direct investment and venture capital investment on entrepreneurship in the Republic of Serbia*); China's cooperation with countries of the region at the local level (Hongfei Gu, *Subnational actors in the relations*

between China and Central and Eastern European countries); as well as the impact of economic freedom on the political stability of the region (Artem Karateev, *Stability and economic freedom in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe: Quantitative analysis*).

The issue also covers the problems of international and national security, in the field of digital security (Pavlo Katerynychuk, *Challenges for Ukraine's cyber security: National dimensions*), as well as – the climate change and attempts to counteract it (Olena Shevchenko, *The role of traditional and new international relations actors in addressing climate change*). No less interesting are the analyses of the evolution of the political regime of modern Uzbekistan by Krystian Pachucki-Włosek (*Old and New Uzbekistan – A comparative essay on the last years of Islam Karimov's reign and Shavkat Mirziyoyev's presidency*), and of the impact of the doping scandal on the international image of Russia by Anna Kobierecka and Michał Marcin Kobierecki.

In the light of current global and local political problems raised in the volume, Sabrina P. Ramet's article on Immanuel Kant's reflection on ethics and politics is of exceptional value.

We wish you a pleasant reading
Editorial team