

Call for Papers

Second Annual ValEUs Conference:

State (In)Stability and EU Foreign Policy

October 2-4, 2025

Libertas International University
Zagreb, Croatia

The international system is increasingly characterized by shifts in political, economic, and social structures, which challenge state stability and carry significant implications for foreign policy decision-making. In this context, the European Union must navigate an increasingly complex and volatile global landscape. A critical dimension of this process is the role of values in EU foreign policy. Central to the EU's external relations is its commitment to promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. However, in scenarios marked by state fragility, these normative principles are often tested by pragmatic considerations, including the pursuit of stability, security, or strategic alliances.

This call for papers seeks contributions that explore how the EU reconciles its normative ideals with the political realities of engaging with fragile or authoritarian regimes and assess how this balance shapes the effectiveness and legitimacy of EU foreign policy.

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Key dates

March 31, 2025: Submission of abstracts

April 30, 2025: Notification of acceptance

October 2-4, 2025: Second Annual ValEUs Conference

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Vladimir Filipović, Libertas International University
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Višeslav Raos, University of Zagreb
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Thematic platforms

The Second Annual ValEUs Conference aims at strengthening academic debate and knowledge exchange on potential counterstrategies to value contestations. These can be addressed through debates on alternative EU foreign policy strategies. Within the consortium, this can be done within five platforms: **(1) De/Migration, (2) EU and the (Former) Colonies, (3) Populism and Euroscepticism, (4) Criticism/Affirmation of EU/Values, (5) EU and Nation-Building/State Interventionism**. In these arenas, we will evaluate how the values promoted by the European Treaties, including economic treaties and policies, are established on the international scene.

On the basis of these platforms, the conference seeks to address a wide range of topics, including, but not limited to:

PLATFORM 1

- Migration and EU foreign policies
- Migration and member state domestic policies
- Migrant culture/migrant culture wars
- Migrant civil society and party formation

PLATFORM 2

- EU foreign policy and development funding
- Great power competition between EU, USA, Russia, China, India, and Turkey
- Reparations and historical legacies
- Local knowledge and cultural heritage
- EU and critical development theory, development at eye level
- Clean energy and dirty mining, EU foreign policy and energy transition

PLATFORM 3

- The Europe of Nations
- EU parliamentary bloc-building
- European and international counterstrategies to populism

PLATFORM 4

- EU as a subject of international relations in terms of *realpolitik*
- Critical approach to the EU's role in current political issues

PLATFORM 5

- The role of state instability in shaping EU foreign policy responses
- The impact of fragile states on EU engagement in conflict zones

- EU strategies for addressing state failure and political crises, including diplomacy, economic aid, and military intervention
- The EU's role in the Southeastern Europe region.

Submissions

We encourage submissions **from diverse disciplinary perspectives**, including political science, international relations, history, political sociology, economics, and law. Both theoretical and empirical papers are welcome, particularly those contributing to the understanding of the interplay between state instability and EU foreign policy.

This event is part of the second annual conference of ValEUs, a Jean Monnet network on foreign policy co-funded by the European Commission. The conference will take place at **Libertas International University from October 2 to 4, 2025**, and members of the ValEUs consortium are strongly encouraged to participate. A general assembly of the consortium will also be convened during the conference.

Prospective participants are invited to submit a 300-word abstract outlining their proposed topic and main arguments. Abstracts must be submitted no later than **March 31, 2025**, **via email to vfilipovic@libertas.hr**. Notification of acceptance for individual abstracts and proposed panels will be sent by April 30, 2025.

Please note

- The submission of abstracts is restricted to individuals affiliated with the 20-member ValEUs consortium.
- Members of partner universities are encouraged to organize specific panels and may invite scholars from institutions outside the consortium.
- Libertas International University is unable to manage or finance travel and accommodation bookings for participants or invited panelists. Members of the ValEUs network should allocate expenses for travel and accommodation from their respective ValEUs lump sum budgets under WP3.
- We look forward to your contributions to this important discussion on the EU's foreign policy challenges and responses.