

# Letter from the Editor

This spring, still, the Covid – 19 Pandemics marks our lives. This spell of the globalized humanity, strikes with its simplicity in spreading and influencing as well as with its intricacy and unpredictability at its countering. Both aspects clearly illustrate the advancing complexity of our time. However, as we stressed some months ago on this place, life has to go on and it does. The vaccination is the backbone of this recovery process.

Our respected authors continue to reflect and contemplate affairs that brand topics around us. A combination of current and historical dwelling, but also going into fiction to learn more.

The more we learn, the bigger are chances to get wiser. Try to enjoy reading, as hopefully always.

*The first* article argues that unjustified restrictions of freedom of movement influence marginalized citizens (mainly Roma) from crossing state borders around the Western Balkans. Potential violability of human rights within the EU visa liberalization policy and policy of conditionality are in the focus of the author's in-depth examination. *Notable.*

*Our second* contribution discusses Lithuania's participation in the War on Terror's secret detention programme designed by the Central Intelligence Agency after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. In the aftermath, some changes though have been made in the area of law enforcement with regard to the democratic control and surveillance mechanisms. *Exceptional.*

*The third* research brings attention to the Slovene inter-war political history. The state-building efforts were displaced between existential fear and opportunities seeking. The process passed through four windows of opportunity, remained unfinished and slowed down, primarily due to an unfavorable international circumstances and indecisiveness. *Factual.*

*The fourth* discussion analyzes conditions in Greek open refugee camps during the pandemic time. The author pays special attention to the preparedness of the camps to deal with the spread of the virus as well as the consequences of the measures taken. The micro-society of the camps has been shaped in many ways, sometimes highly challenging. *Skillful*.

*The fifth* paper focuses on cultural diversity as an outstanding factor of achieving success, not only in the area of modern business. It is one of the invisible elements that make the drive to success more sophisticated and on the long run more efficient and sustainable as well. This approach points out the importance of understanding local cultures and traditions. *Successfully*.

*The last* piece of examination researches from diplomatic point of view the outstanding science fiction novel of Arthur C. Clarke *Childhood's End*. Three types of ad-hoc envoys could be pointed out, all adding to the understanding of this ever-old profession. One could also speak about diplomacy of the first contact as a kind of Clarke's innovation. *Discovering*.

Our first book review elaborates geopolitics and geo-economics as seen from Bucharest, aimed at tackling issues of global importance with fresh and dynamic approach. The second one presents the evolution and origins of the Serb nationalism and national identity as it was developing from its founders on the way to modernity. In the current Guest View the outstanding author, an insider of working with talented and gifted, elaborates on importance of emotional intelligence, taking as an example the newly established International Center for Emotional Intelligence in Ohrid.

Most probably, each our reader is already familiar with our bellow *intonation*: Slovenia is counting down weeks while preparing for its second Presidency of the EU Council, having in mind the Congress of Ljubljana that took place exactly two centuries ago. Diplomacy is null without tradition. See you in autumn.

Ljubljana, April 2021

M. J.

*From the Congress of Ljubljana 1821 to the Presidency of the EU Council 2021*