

# INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2024

## “OVERCOMING THE CRISIS OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION”

Deadline for individual paper proposal submissions: **OPEN until 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2024**

***ATTENTION: The Congress will be held entirely in English, as well as the communications.***

In recent years we have witnessed a democratic backsliding that has affected every area of our societies. Since before the crisis of refugees in 2015, the European Union has been immersed in a process of enlargement with third countries rather than deepening in its core values and policies. The rise of populisms, the attacks to journalists, and to the judiciary are only some of the visible aspects of a complex process of dismantling the rule of law, a core value of the European Union as established in article 2 of the Treaty of the EU.

The EU is aware of the urgent action that is needed to save our institutions and values and is trying to monitor the rule of law through the annual reports on each member state. However, while many are talking about the enormous problems that are affecting our rule of law and therefore our democracy, not so many are trying to focus on solutions or proposing ways of overcoming the crisis of democratic values in the European Union.

Is in this spirit that this Congress is held. We seek to explore the interplay between the European Union values and their reflection in society, how they are (de)constructed and its implications for our democracies. The rule of law is a concept intertwined with democracy and human rights and therefore any work focusing on any of the areas of the rule of law is also welcome. Once problems are identified it is vital to propose solutions to guarantee the survival of the EU as we know it. Such a focus can contribute to promoting interdisciplinarity in the EU studies, highlight the interdependence of different socioeconomic, legal, and political dimensions, and facilitate a debate in how to strengthen our European Union.

We invite submissions of individual paper proposals that relate to the broad topic of the **crisis of democratic values in the European Union with preference on those focusing on solutions** rather than identifying the problems. Panels should be in person. **Submissions for contributions are open until 31st of May.**

This Congress is part of the project “Crisis of the Rule of Law in the EU. Special reference to Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Estonia, Spain and Italy and the incidence of the pandemic”, where sixteen researchers from eight universities in more than six different countries have been analyzing the increasingly questioning of the values on which the EU is based and which for decades, we believed to be immovable.

## ORGANIZERS

Research Group: “Crisis of the Rule of Law in the EU. Special reference to Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Estonia, Spain and Italy and the incidence of the pandemic”, CEU Cardenal Herrera University

Jean Monnet Chair “The Europe of values and Human Rights”, CEU Cardenal Herrera University

## SUPPORTERS

<p>Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación <b>PID2021-126765NB-I00</b></p>	<p>Generalitat Valenciana <b>AICO/2021/099</b></p>	<p>CEU Cardenal Herrera University</p>
		

## CALL FOR COMMUNICATIONS: INDIVIDUAL PAPER PROPOSALS

Send your proposal to [ruleoflawcrisiseu@uchceu.es](mailto:ruleoflawcrisiseu@uchceu.es) **before 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2024**. Paper proposals should include a 500-600 word abstract and the name, affiliation, and contact details of the author. Individual papers will be thematically clustered into the following panels. Please, check the panels and select the one more aligned to the topic of your proposal. Applicants will be informed about the acceptance of their submission towards mid of June 2024. We are open to **all methodological approaches (case studies, comparative, theoretical, empirical, statistic, legal...)** and **while those proposing solutions will be preferable, we welcome all type of works related to the values of the European Union, rule of law, democracy...**

Applicants can only submit one paper proposal as main author.

The decision to include the papers in the panels belongs exclusively to the scientific committee.

**NOTE: The organizing body reserves the right to publish some papers with the author's consent.**

**All communications must be in English.**

## THE PANELS

### PANEL 1: Judiciary independence

The panel of judiciary independence welcomes all the works with a more legal perspective both normative and empiric. Separation of powers is one of the foundational elements of our democracies, and attacks on the judiciary even if they look like little, they affect our system. In this panel we expect to create a debate about the importance of the independence of the judiciary and how to protect it and prevent it from further attacks, especially from those coming from the executive.

### PANEL 2: Fight against corruption and transparency

The panel of fight against corruption and transparency aims to explore the relation between corruption and the crisis of democratic values and welcomes works that focus on transparency or specific good practices to overcome corruption.

### PANEL 3: Freedom of speech and media pluralism

In a democratic society is essential to have an informed public opinion. Works on disinformation, misinformation, media pluralism, freedom of speech, protection of journalists, cancellation culture... are welcome here. This panel looks for a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach on the relationship between media pluralism/freedom of speech and democracy. Also, it welcomes thoughts on how to protect freedom of speech on the internet or social platforms and how to protect EU values in this area.

### PANEL 4: Democracy, Human Rights and institutional issues related to check and balances

Democracy and rule of law cannot be understood without the protection and promotion of human rights and the establishment of adequate check and balances. In this panel we will deepen into the relationship among those four. We welcome any work that questions how the crisis of values is affecting democracy, and what improvements need to be implemented to protect the EU. Topics such as but not limited to populisms, illiberal societies, human rights, integration of immigrants, asylum, might be discussed here.

## PROGRAM

DAY 1

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

9.00: Register

9.30 – 10.00: Opening

10.00 – 11.00: Guest Speaker

**Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque**, Full Professor at Católica Lisbon School of Law, Portugal, and former Judge at the European Court of Human Rights

11.00 - 11.30: *Coffee Break*

11.30 – 13.00: Roundtable 1: “How to protect our values”

**Fruzsina Gárdos-Orosz** (moderator), Research Professor HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Legal Studies, Professor of Public Law at ELTE Law School, Budapest, Hungary

**Antonio Bar Cendón**, Full Professor of Constitutional Law and Jean Monnet “ad personam” at the Faculty of Law, University of Valencia, Spain

**Dimitry Kochenov**, Lead Researcher of the Rule of Law Workgroup at the Democracy Institute of the Central European University of Budapest, Professor in the Department of Legal Studies at the Central European University of Vienna and Associate Professor in the EU program at Princeton University, USA

**Luis Jimena Quesada**, Full Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Valencia, Spain, and former President of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe

13.00 – 15.00: *Break*

**15.00 – 16.30: Roundtable 2: “The rule of law in an informed society”**

**Clara Portela Sais** (moderator), Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Law, University of Valencia, Spain

**Leopoldo García Ruiz**, Full Professor of Philosophy of Law at CEU Cardenal Herrera University, Valencia, Spain

**Jaime Suau**, Tenured Professor at the Faculty of Communication and International Relations and Head of DIGILAB research group in Blanquerna, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain

**Belén Becerril Atienza**, Full Professor of European Union Law at CEU San Pablo University, Madrid, Spain

**16.30 – 18.00: Roundtable 3: “Trusting in our politicians and institutions in times of populism”**

**Dario Čepo** (moderator), Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia

**Zoltán Szente**, Research Professor in the Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law at the Institute for Legal Studies, HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

**Elisa de la Nuez Sánchez-Cascado**, General Secretary of Fundación Hay Derecho, State Attorney on leave of absence and partner at the law firm GClegal, Madrid, Spain

**Jan Wouters**, Full Professor of International Law and International Organizations, Jean Monnet Chair ad personam, Director, Institute for International Law and Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Administrator, America Europe Fund, KU Leuven, Belgium

**19.00: Social program (city-center guided tour)**

**DAY 2**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**9:00 – 10.30: Roundtable 4: “Separation of powers and judicial independence”**

**Barbara Grabowska-Moroz** (moderator), Senior Research Fellow and Director of Rule of Law Clinic at the Democracy Institute of the Central European University of Budapest, Hungary

**Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo Ibáñez**, Lawyer at the Council of State assigned to the Fourth Section (Defence and Industry), Professor at CEU San Pablo University, Madrid, Spain

**Dragoș Călin**, Judge at the Bucharest Court of Appeals and Associate Researcher of the Institute for Legal Research of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania

**Juan Luis Requejo Pagés**, Legal secretary at the Court of Justice of the European Union, Luxembourg

**10.30 – 11.00: *Coffee Break***

**11.00 – 13.00: Panels of communications/individual paper proposals**

**11.00 - 12.00: Panels 1 and 3**

Panel 1: Judiciary independence

Panel 3: Freedom of speech and media pluralism

**12.00 - 13.00: Panels 2 and 4**

Panel 2: Fight against corruption and transparency

Panel 4: Democracy, Human Rights and institutional issues related to check and balances

**13.00 – 14.00: Book launch: “¿La Europa de los valores? El declive del Estado de Derecho en la Unión Europea”**

**14.00: Closing words and farewell**

\*All the conference will be held in English.

\*\* The venue will be at the headquarters of the University Cardenal Herrera CEU in the city of Valencia (Palacio de Colomina, C/ de l'Almodí, 1, Ciutat Vella, 46003 València, Valencia)

## ATTENDING FEES

<b>Standard fee<sup>1</sup></b> (it includes conference materials, participation diploma, coffee breaks, guided visit)	<b>100 €</b>
<b>CEU universities members fee<sup>2</sup></b> (it includes conference materials, participation diploma, coffee breaks, guided visit)	<b>30 €</b>
<b>Standard fee Proposal/Communication submitted and accepted<sup>3</sup></b> (it includes conference materials, participation diploma, coffee breaks, guided visit and oral presentation of the submission in a specific panel)	<b>130 €</b>
<b>CEU universities members fee Proposal/Communication submitted and accepted<sup>4</sup></b> (it includes conference materials, participation diploma, coffee breaks, guided visit and oral presentation of the submission in a specific panel)	<b>70 €</b>

## PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

If you are a member of any CEU university, please register [HERE](#).

For the rest of the attendees, please register [HERE](#).

**IMPORTANT! Registration will be open until September 30th for general attendees, if you wish to present an individual paper you must register and submit your proposal no later than May 31st.**

***\*Please, remember that once you have registered, you must meticulously follow the instructions and make the payment. Otherwise, your registration will not be finalized, and you will not be able to present your paper at the Congress or obtain the certificate of participation. If you need assistance, please reach out to [ruleoflawcrisiseu@uchceu.es](mailto:ruleoflawcrisiseu@uchceu.es)***

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<sup>1</sup> This category includes all those interested in attending the Congress (listener only) without presenting an oral communication in a specific panel and not coming from CEU universities.

<sup>2</sup> This category includes all those interested in attending the Congress (listener only) without presenting an oral communication in a specific panel coming from any CEU universities (academic, administrative staff, students, alumni).

<sup>3</sup> This category includes all those interested in attending the congress with the presentation of a communication previously accepted by the Scientific Committee that do not come from any CEU universities.

<sup>4</sup> This category includes all those interested in attending the congress with the presentation of a communication previously accepted by the Scientific Committee and coming from any CEU universities.



## OTHER INFORMATION

- A certificate of assistance will be given to those registered and attending (in situ signatures' list)
- A certificate of participation will be given to those who participate in the panels
- There will be a Scientific Committee to select the proposals composed of:
  - Susana Sanz Caballero
  - Antonio Bar Cendón
  - Manuel Martínez Sospedra
  - Ainhoa Uribe Otalora
- The Scientific Committee will decide which proposals/communications will be defended orally. The Committee can also readjust the panels and reallocate communications. It will also decide whether the communication will be published.
- For further information about your visit to Valencia you can check on this website <https://www.visitvalencia.com/en/plan-your-trip-to-valencia/accommodation-valencia>
- For further information on the Congress please visit the congress [website](#) or write to [ruleoflawcrisiseu@uchceu.es](mailto:ruleoflawcrisiseu@uchceu.es)

**NOTE:** This is the **FINAL** program, any changes will be notified and updated through the website.