

# Mădălin-Cătălin Blidaru

www.madalinblidaru.ro

## Current position

10/2018 – present: PhD student in **International Relations**, Doctoral School of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania, with a research programme on the interregional relations of the European Union. Expected thesis defence: 09/2021.

## Research interests

EU foreign policy, EU policymaking processes, EU neighbourhood, interregional relations, international organizations, multilevel governance in international relations

## Higher education

- MA in **Labour Studies**, Faculty of Political Sciences, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania, degree conferred 07/2019
- MA in **Diplomacy and International Negotiations**, Department of International Relations and European Integration, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, degree conferred 07/2018
- BA in **International Relations and European Studies**, Faculty of Political Sciences, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, degree conferred 07/2016

## Professional experience

03/2020 – 07/2020 Blue Book Trainee, European Commission, Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM), Brussels, Belgium

- Policy analysis on governance, public administration, and rule of law in EU27.
- Support for the preparation of structural reform support project proposals.
- Contributions to the development and dissemination of policy knowledge.

08/2018 – 08/2019 European Affairs Counsellor, Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity Directorate, Bucharest, Romania

- Co-chaired the Working Party on International Environment Issues – Biosafety during the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council.
- Preparation, coordination, and negotiation of common and joint positions on international biosafety developments.
- International representation during the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference.

09/2017 – 11/2017 Fellow, African Union – European Union Youth Plug-In Initiative

03/2016 – 11/2016 Youth Delegate, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

07/2015 – 09/2015 Intern, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development, European Affairs and International Relations Directorate, Bucharest, Romania

12/2014 – 02/2015 Intern, FOND Romania – The Romanian Nongovernmental Development Organisations' Platform, Bucharest, Romania

## Scholarships

Erasmus scholarship for studies, Bremen University, Germany, 03/2018-07/2018

Professional scholarship, European Forum Alpbach, Austria, 08/2017

Erasmus scholarship for studies, University of Granada, Spain, 09/2014-02/2015

## Publications (selection)

### Journal articles (*peer reviewed, indexed*)

Blidaru, M. (2020), "'With whom we talk?' Drawing regions in 21st century Africa", in *Studia Europaea*, 65(2), 155-177, <https://doi.org/10.24193/subbeuropaea.2020.2.08>

Blidaru, M. (2020), "EU's human rights dialogues with Belarus and the developments around presidential elections", in *Technium Social Sciences Journal*, 11(1), 378-390, <https://doi.org/10.47577/tssj.v11i1.1573>

### Conference proceedings (*peer reviewed, indexed*)

Blidaru, M. (2020), "Regions and agreements. Evidence on increasing formal links between regional organizations", in *Proceedings of the 16th international scientific conference "Strategies XXI". Strategic changes in security and international relations*, 16(1), 71-86, "Carol I" National Defence University Publishing House, Bucharest, Romania

### Policy publications (*peer-reviewed*)

Blidaru, M. (2020), "Ne pregătim pentru viitor: registrul unic voluntar pentru evidenția persoanelor vulnerabile", UEFISCDI, [https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/resource-824287-policy-brief\\_registru-unic-persoane-vulnerabile\\_madalin-blidaru.pdf](https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/resource-824287-policy-brief_registru-unic-persoane-vulnerabile_madalin-blidaru.pdf)

Blidaru, M. (2020), "Time to reassess the reliability of the Eastern Partnership: the need for segmentation and micro-regional strategies", COST Action ENTER - EU foreign policy facing new realities Policy Brief, Darmstadt, Germany, <https://foreignpolicynewrealities.eu/publications/cost-action-enter-policy-brief-no-6-december-2020/>

Blidaru, M. (2020), "COVID-19 și reconstrucția democrației. De la derapajele din timpul pandemiei la idealurile de după", ESGA, Bucharest, <http://www.esga.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Madalin-Blidaru-Policy-Brief-Covid19.pdf>

Blidaru, M. (2019), "Impactul situației din Peninsula Crimeea în contextul acordurilor bilaterale sectoriale dintre România și Ucraina", ESGA, Bucharest, <http://www.esga.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Madalin-Catalin-Blidaru-Policy-Paper.pdf>

## Contributions

"AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative Youth Agenda", African Union - European Union Summit 2017, Brussels, Addis Ababa, Abidjan, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31805/au-eu-ypii-youth-agenda-english.pdf> (contributions to the collective authorship)

## Periodicals

Blidaru, M. (2021), "Turkey's regional options in the 21st century: between the political West and the wider Asia", *Eastern Focus Quarterly*, <https://www.eastern-focus.eu/2021/04/turkeys-regional-options-in-the-21st-century-between-the-political-west-and-the-wider-asia/>

Blidaru, M. (2020), "Another example of the environmental crisis: biodiversity loss in the 21st century", Pacific Council Magazine, <https://www.pacificcouncil.online/commentary/biodiversity-loss-in-21st-century>

#### Research databases

Blidaru, M. (2021), "EU regional neighbors integration and cooperation dataset", Open Science Framework Repository, <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/A6SEF>

#### Unpublished work in progress

Blidaru, M., "Digital governance regimes and implications on digital rights in the Black Sea area", unpublished working paper

Blidaru, M., "EU's foreign policy: a framework of analysis on asymmetries in interregional cooperation", unpublished working paper

#### Presentations at conferences

Blidaru, M. (2021). "EU's foreign policy: a framework of analysis on asymmetries in interregional cooperation". International Conference of Europeanists on "Europe's Past, Present, and Future: Eutopias and Dystopias". 22-25 June 2021. Council for European Studies (online)

Blidaru, M. (2020), "An updated assessment of the relative strength of pro-Eurasian parties in the Eastern Partnership states", EURINT International Conference, Center for European Studies, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 16/10/2020, Iași

Blidaru, M. (2020), "Organisations within organisations: an inquiry into EU's membership in international organisations", Thirteenth Global Studies Conference, Concordia University, 04/06/2020, Montréal (online)

Blidaru, M. (2020), "Regions and agreements. Evidences on increasing formal links between regional organizations", Strategies XXI International Scientific Conference, "Carol I" National Defence University, 09/04/2020, Bucharest

Blidaru, M. (2019), "Integrarea regională în Orientul Mijlociu din perspectiva politicii externe a Uniunii Europene în perioada de după Războiul Rece" [EU foreign policy and regional integration in the Middle East after the Cold War], PhiloHistorISS Graduate Conference, History and Philosophy Faculty of the Babeș-Bolyai University, 09/11/2019, Cluj-Napoca

#### Panel contributions (invited speaker, selection)

"Nationalization and emerging tech: cryptocurrency, digital rights, and disinformation", A Young Professionals' Panel, CEU's Nationalism Studies Department, 07/05/2021, contribution on digital rights, nationalization, and fragmentation of the digital space in the Black Sea area,

#### Trainings, seminars, conferences (attendance, non-degree, recent selection)

PhD Seminar on Digital Public Sector Transformation, provided by Hertie School's Centre for Digital Governance and Bocconi University's Department of Social and Political Science (CIVICA), 27/10/2020 - 14/12/2020

Management training within the programme "Researcher-Entrepreneur on Labour Market in the Fields of Intelligent Specialization (CERT-ANTREP)", provided by SNSPA and its project partners, 10/2019-09/2020

Coordination in the field of European affairs, European negotiation, and policymaking, 10/09/2018 – 14/09/2018

EU-US Young Leaders Seminar on the Future of Work, organized by Fulbright Commission in Brussels and the European Commission, 04/2018  
Euro-Arab Youth Forum, 6th edition, "Overcoming hate together", Fez, Morocco, 24-29/04/2017

### **Certifications**

2017 – Accredited Trainer, COR 242401 (national classification code)  
2017 – EU structural and cohesion funds expert, COR 242213 (national classification code)

### **Grants** (competitive calls, non-academic contexts)

List available upon request.

### **Professional memberships and networks**

Council for European Studies  
Pacific Council on International Policy

### **Volunteering**

Steering group member, Young European Federalists Romania (Tineri Europeni Romania)  
Common Futures Conversations, Chatham House (African-European youth network)

### **Skills**

*Organisational skills:* project management skills, time management and attention to details, monitoring and assessment capacity, stakeholders' mapping.

*Computer skills:* office suites, fast learner of internal IT systems, content management systems, social media and online advertising, statistical analysis software.

*Social and communication skills:* intercultural dialogue, presentations to different audiences, working in multilinguistic and multicultural environments.

### **Languages**

Native: Romanian  
Professional working proficiency: English  
Limited working proficiency: French  
Beginner: German, Spanish

**References:** available upon request

### **Contact information**

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