



## EDITOR'S NOTE

The current Strategic Impact issue (number 88/2023) covers timely research findings within the realm of political-military topicality, EU's policies, security and military strategy, and trends and perspectives in geopolitics and geostrategy, comprising a total of five articles, followed by the **Book Review** and **Guide for authors** rubrics.

**Political-Military Topicality.** Iulia Alexandra COJOCARU, PhD Student, in her research "*Weaponizing Communication. Words vs. Bullets in the Russian-Ukrainian War*" argues that, in the light of the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict, it is necessary both for the public opinion and for the rightful authorities to adapt and respond effectively to the security environment dynamics. Starting from identifying some key-aspects regarding the background of the Russian-Ukrainian relations that Kremlin has exploited in developing their hostile information campaigns, the author then observed how these issues were included in the Russian officials' discourse through various messages. Next, she presented Ukraine's information strategy carried out through their StratCom campaigns, analysing some elements of Ukraine's President discourses, and concluding with the fact that Ukraine's StratCom campaigns have decisively contributed to supporting its resistance in the first year of constant attacks from an undeniably stronger enemy.

**NATO and EU: Policies, Strategies, Actions.** In the next article, "*EU's Southern Neighbourhood Policy towards Libya and Syria*", Vasile-Dumitru RAȚIU, also a PhD Student, explains how the European Union (EU) implemented and intends to continue the neighbourhood policy with two states that went through the "Arab Spring" and became conflict zones, namely Libya and Syria. The main objectives pursued by the EU are stabilization of neighbouring countries, promotion of EU key interests and facilitation of regional cooperation. Also, the significant increase in trade relations between the EU and the failed states leads to a deepening of bilateral relations, and over time can create an environment conducive to state reconstruction, where the citizen is at the centre of attention and the rulers' own interests are no longer at the forefront.

**Security and Military Strategy.** Ulpia Elena BOTEZATU in the 3<sup>rd</sup> article "*Romania's Space Aspirations and the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence*" explores the interplay between European Union's Space Strategy for Security and Defence and Romania's space aspirations, analysing its key facets and their potential effects. Investigating elements such as shared threat awareness, space system resilience, response strategies, and responsible behaviour in outer space,



the article provides insights for stakeholders to harness EU space capabilities. The conclusion of the article is that the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence addresses space intricacies with political, operational and other fields of action, and by focusing on vital components such as threat understanding, system protection, responsive measures, and cooperative behaviour, the article sheds light on EU Space Strategy's strategic importance in the defence and security realms.

***Geopolitics and Geostrategy: Trends and Perspectives.*** In the next article "*Climate Change and Security: the Case for Black Sea*", Maria Emanuela MIHAILOV, PhD, Captain (N) Lucian GRIGORESCU, and Captain (N) Romel PERA explore priorities for future research in the area of climate change and cover the necessary adjustments to facilities, materials, and equipment due to progressive weather changes, stressing the fact that, as climate change poses significant challenges to global security by exacerbating existing threats and creating new ones, competition over scarce resources such as food, water, and land will likely increase as extreme weather events and temperature rise will become more frequent. Climate-related migration is expected to increase political tensions, and in some regions, could contribute to instability and conflict. The changing climate will also impact infrastructure, the economy, and public health, which will have far-reaching security implications. The current issue of climate change highlights the spectre of a new source of instability and conflict that can affect national/international peace and security, and the paper presents the specialized literature on short-term climate change and its possible influence on the Black Sea regional security.

Also, under the umbrella of this rubric, in the article "*Vulnerabilities transposed by climate change effects in ecological risks and threats to the national security*", our colleague, Senior Researcher Mirela ATANASIU, PhD, is pointing out the fact that, as climate changes effects determine major transformations of interactions between socio-economic and natural environment. These phenomena directly affect the overall security systems, vulnerabilities that are a constitutive element of the climate security equation seen as a logical construction of a causal nature, respectively: climate changes' effects are the source of ecological threats and associated risks facilitated or multiplied by exploited vulnerabilities whose presence/absence gives the measure of the impact over the respective security system. In this regard, the topic of the article focuses on a narrower subject, namely the identification of vulnerabilities that have the potential to be exploited in generating ecological threats and associated risks against Romanian national security.

The current edition includes the ***Book Review*** rubric that presents the first volume ( "Mapping Non-State Actors in International Relations") from the series called "Non-State Actors in International Relations" (NAIR), reviewed by authors Marianna CHAROUNTAKI, Senior Lecturer in International Politics within the University of Lincoln, UK, and Daniela IRRERA, Professor of Political Science and



International Relations, School of Advanced Defence Studies within the University of Catania, Italy.

Also, this edition includes the ***Guide for authors***, a mandatory reading for those who wish to disseminate the research results in our journal.

For those discovering *Strategic Impact* for the first time, the publication is an open-access peer reviewed journal, edited by the Centre for Defence and Security Strategic Studies and published with the support of “Carol I” National Defence University Publishing House, and, also, a prestigious scientific journal in the field of military sciences, information and public order, according to the National Council for Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU).

*Strategic Impact* is an academic publication in the field of strategic defence and security studies journal that has been published since 2000 in Romanian, and since 2005 in English, in print and online. The articles are checked for plagiarism and scientifically evaluated (double blind peer review method). The thematic areas include political science, international relations, geopolitics, the political-military sphere, international organizations – with a focus on NATO and the EU information society, cyber security, intelligence studies and military history. Readers will find in the pages of the publication strategic-level analyses, syntheses and evaluations, views that explore the impact of national, regional and global dynamics.

In terms of international visibility – the primary objective of the publication – the recognition of the scientific quality of the journal is confirmed by its indexing in the international databases CEEOL (Central and Eastern European Online Library, Germany), EBSCO (USA), Index Copernicus (Poland), ProQuest (USA), and WorldCat and ROAD ISSN, as well as its presence in the virtual catalogues of the libraries of prestigious institutions abroad, such as NATO and military universities in Bulgaria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia etc.

The journal is distributed free of charge in main institutions in the field of security and defence, in the academia and abroad – in Europe, Asia and America.

In the end, we encourage those interested in publishing in our journal to rigorously survey and assess the dynamics of the security environment and, at the same time, we invite students, master students and doctoral candidates to submit articles for publication in the monthly supplement of the journal, *Strategic Colloquium*, available on the Internet at <http://cssas.unap.ro/ro/cs.htm>, indexed in the international database CEEOL, Google scholar and ROAD ISSN.

***Editor-in-Chief, Colonel Florian CÎRCIUMARU, PhD***  
***Director of the Centre for Defence and Security Strategic Studies***

