

Europe, with few exceptions, is a continent of democracy. This is a huge achievement of Europeans, enabling them to enjoy political rights and liberties. The dynamics of changes of the contemporary world in economy, in the proportions of political influence, in technology and in social life pose new challenges. The ability to adjust to the new reality, to maintain or increase competitiveness as well as to think and plan globally and long-term will be decisive factors bringing success or failure.

Will European democracy meet these needs? Do the quality of political systems and actions in EU Member States measure up to the challenges of a current situation?

From *Foreword* by Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz

This book is the very first creation of the Centre for Direct Democracy Studies (CDDS) at the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok. The Centre was established in 2011 to foster and institutionalise research on direct democracy in Central and Eastern Europe.

Among its goals, the Centre aims to launch a series of peer-reviewed publications on democracy and European integration. For the first book in the planned series the Centre called for papers on the challenges of modern democracy and European integration. More than a dozen scholars from across Europe have kindly accepted its invitation.

This volume is divided into two parts. The first part looks at the nature of the principles on which the EU is founded. ... The second part explores the relations between the EU and its neighbours and partners from a democratic perspective.

From *Preface* by the Editors



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Vol 1



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Elżbieta Kuźlewska and Dariusz Kloza

European Integration and Democracy Series