

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

Bucharest University of Economic Studies

invites you to attend

The 23rd International Conference on Economic Convergence in European Union

*Fractured Convergence: Geoeconomics, Digital Sovereignty, and Resilience in a
Polarized World*

Bucharest, 7th-8th May 2026



CALL FOR PAPERS

We are pleased to invite you to the **23rd International Conference on Economic Convergence in European Union (ECEU)** which will take place on **15th-16th May 2025**.

Organized by **The Faculty of Economics and Business Communication**, the ECEU conference continues its tradition *as a multidisciplinary forum for scholars to debate the most pressing economic challenges of our time*.

While the previous edition of the ECEU conference explored the internal mechanics of AI as a driver of productivity and growth, the 2026 edition shifts the lens to the external pressures reshaping the European economy. The "Twin Transition" (digital and green) is now inextricably linked to national security, redefining how Member States compete and cooperate. As global trade fragments into competing blocs and protectionist industrial policies rise, the European Union faces an existential challenge. Supply chains are being redrawn not just for efficiency, but for security ("friend-shoring"), creating friction that threatens the export-oriented growth models of many European economies. Most critically, this new geopolitical volatility poses a direct threat to Economic Convergence within the Union. Asymmetric external shocks—ranging from energy crises to trade sanctions—risk widening the gap between the EU's core and its periphery. The 2026 ECEU conference seeks to investigate whether the pursuit of strategic autonomy and economic resilience will act as a unifying force for the Single Market or a catalyst for divergence. We invite scholars to analyze how policy responses to these global fractures can be designed to ensure that the benefits of stability and security are shared equitably across all Member States. In addition to sectoral analyses, we strongly encourage submissions that take a macroeconomic perspective, investigating how the collision of geopolitical rivalry and industrial transformation impacts the aggregate stability and convergence of the European economy.

Topics of Interest

We particularly welcome research addressing the following key areas:

1. Geoeconomics & EU Strategic Autonomy

- The economics of fragmentation: Friend-shoring, near-shoring, and de-risking supply chains.
- Economic sanctions as tools of foreign policy: Implications for EU markets and trade balances.
- Energy security and the geopolitics of the green transition.
- The impact of global conflict on EU economic convergence and Cohesion Policy.

2. Macroeconomic Stability & Convergence

- Inflation Dynamics: Analyzing "greenflation," supply-side shocks, and the cost of supply chain reorientation.
- Monetary Sovereignty: Challenges for the ECB in a multipolar currency system and the macroeconomic implications of the Digital Euro.
- Fiscal Sustainability: Reforming the Stability and Growth Pact for an era of high defense and climate investment.
- Divergent Growth Paths: Assessing whether the "Twin Transition" accelerates convergence or widens the gap between the EU's core and periphery.

3. The Digital Economy & Technological Sovereignty

- The global AI race: Economic implications for EU productivity and labor markets.
- Digital borders: Data privacy, cybersecurity, and the regulation of cross-border tech.
- The digital divide as a geopolitical vulnerability and a barrier to economic inclusion.
- Labor market macroeconomics: AI-driven automation and skills polarization in an aging Europe.

4. Sustainable Development in a Volatile World

- Balancing climate goals with industrial competitiveness and strategic independence.
- Circular economy models as a tool for resource security.
- The fiscal costs of the green transition and the role of EU-wide funding instruments.

Participants are requested to submit their papers via email to eceu@ase.ro.

The number of authors per paper is limited to five.

The paper will include an abstract of no more than 100 words, a list of 5 keywords, and the email addresses of all authors. Submitted papers must be 15 pages (A4) maximum, with 1.0 line spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font, including notes and references. The Harvard referencing style will be applied.

All submitted papers will undergo a rigorous peer review process, evaluated on criteria such as novelty, originality, relevance, scientific rigor, methodological design, results, and overall contribution to the field. In accordance with ECEU policy, every effort will be made to subject complete papers to a double-blind peer review by at least two independent reviewers. Submissions must be original and should not have been previously published or under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Publication opportunities:

Selected papers will be published in a Special issue of *Theoretical and Applied Economics Journal*, indexed in EconLit, RePec, DOAJ, EBSCO and ICAAP.

Best papers will be considered for publication in Web of Science indexed journals.

Important dates:

- **Submission of full paper due for review: 23rd March 2026**
- **Notification of paper acceptance (incl. requests for changes): 6th April 2026**
- **Final paper due (with changes implemented): 27th April 2026**
- **Final Author registration date: 30th April 2026**
- **Conference: 7th-8th May 2026**

Registration and fees:

- Fee: 125 Euro (625 RON) per paper
- Due date for payment: **30th April 2026**

The conference fee includes conference attendance, publication, conference folder and access to the events during the conference.

The fee will be paid in the account: **Asociația Studenților în Economie, Afaceri și Comunicare**
IBAN: RO18INGB0000999911402937

For further questions feel free to contact us via email at: eceu@ase.ro