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*On the issue of relations between the EU
and East Europe countries*

Vytautas Radžvilas

The aim of this article is to review and evaluate the condition and the development perspectives of the relations between the EU and its Eastern neighbours. The problem is analysed in the context of the recent discussion on the “Broader Europe” concept. The current dominant model of the relations between the EU and Eastern Europe countries is described in the article using the “circular discourse” and “circular interaction” terms. This article is aimed to reveal the initial theoretical and geo / political preconditions that helped this model to become the dominant theoretical and practical approach in the field of EU – East Europe relations, to uncover the logics of its functioning and the implications of its realisation to Lithuania and the other new EU member states.

Politics without values

Alvydas Jokubaitis

The so-called political values are only representations of values from other areas. We got used to the idea that if there is politics, there also have to be unique values belonging to this realm. However, the biggest paradox is that politics does not have its own values. There is no pure political judgment. When we make judgments about political matters we enter into discussions about values which are clearly not political. The roots of political judgments always can be traced to matters that are not political. All political values can be reduced to issues which exist

beyond politics. They represent moral, religious, economic and cultural convictions of citizens. The meaning of politics always remains outside its reach. Behind so-called “political values” we always find reference to other values.

*Lithuania between Estonia and Slovenia:
on the typological differentiation of the
postcommunist capitalism*

Zenonas Norkus

Drawing upon the work by C. Buchen and M. Feldmann, the author argues that among postcommunist countries Slovenia approximates most closely the ideal type of liberal market economy, while Estonia comes most closely to its antipode – liberal market economy in the sense of P. A. Hall and D. Soskice. While Lithuania together with Estonia lean toward liberal type, postcommunist liberal capitalism displays some unique features, their list including underdeveloped financial sector, strong position of foreign capital, “cocktail” quality of many institutions due to their eclectic import. Lack of institutional complementarity between different institutional spheres is considered as driving force behind recent attempts to reform pension and education systems in Lithuania.

*Public management and information technology:
towards a new institutional model?*

Egidijus Barcevičius

There are no simple answers when it comes to explaining what information technologies would change in public management. Conceptually the electronic government is a rather new research field, therefore it lacks universally accepted definitions and causal models. Therefore this article attempts to make a contribution in theoretical terms: it develops the idea that technologies provide an impetus towards development of a new institutional public management model, which is fundamentally different

from the traditional rational bureaucracy and New Public Management. Having defined the main features of the IT-based model, the article discusses the possible mechanism of change – i.e. to what extent within this mechanism the IT can be considered an independent variable?

*Negativity in Lithuanian presidential election campaigns:
mobilize or demobilize the voters?*

Ingrida Unikaitė

This article reviews the issue of negativity in election campaigns in academic literature, and presents some data from Lithuanian Presidential campaign (1997 and 2002) analysis. The article aims to ascertain how often various types of negativity are used in the Lithuanian presidential campaigns as well as to deliberate about their potential effect on election results. Comparison of the data of two Lithuanian Presidential campaigns' newspapers' analyses indicates the possibility of growing importance of negativity in election campaigns. As analysis shows, there is no agreement among the scholars about the effect of different types of negativity. It is evident that more detail studies of negativity of election campaigns in Lithuania are needed.