



INTRODUCTION

The fall of the Berlin Wall has prompted important transformations in Central and Eastern Europe not only in terms of political and economic systems but also in terms of values. While the transformations have been made differently, the ideal was the same, to become a Western country.

Romania, a country located between East and West, which has had a rapid incorporation to Western institutions (EU & NATO) after its transition to democracy in 1989.

Hence, the object of this thesis is to address the matters of transnational movements and flexibilization of values in Eastern Europe, specifically in the case of Romania.

Research Question



Hypotheses

To what extent has the Romanian society Westernized its values due to its adherence to the West or its institutions?

- H1. The main factor that has driven Romania towards the Western sphere was its social mobilization.
- H2. The adherence of Romania to Western institutions, specifically the EU & NATO, has caused the most important changes in the society.
- H3. Other factors for the societal changes might be considered, such as the Romanian diaspora.

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative, based on the fields of international relations, sociology and political science. Other sources such as news outlets, opinion polls, music and discourses are considered.

Analysis of different sections: effects of the 1989 Revolution, the adherence to Western institutions (EU & NATO), the Romanian diaspora, and the current situation (country’s action within EU institutions and its response to the Russian aggression to Ukraine).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- **Liberal institutionalism**
- **Constructivism**
- **Westernization:** “adaptation or influence of Western (European) culture among societies across the globe in areas such as lifestyle priorities, education, values, economics, politics, etc” (Irwin, 2016).
- **Europeanisation**
- **International socialization**



RESULTS

Analysis of the sections
(theoretical framework + verification of the hypotheses)



Will of the population to be part of the West (H1)	The demands of the civil society led to the reforms that allowed membership to both institutions.
The adherence of Romania to the EU and NATO has caused the most important changes in the society (H2)	It entailed a value-oriented transformation of the society, fostered by the internal institutional reforms that were required by the adherence.
The diaspora could be perceived as a “spear of transformation” (H3)	Expectations developed in the West applied to the home country when returning → changes.
Current situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action within EU institutions• Undeniable support for Ukraine	Perceived through actions, surveys and the reaction to the entrance in the Schengen area. Undeniable support for Ukraine, declarative and through actions.

CONCLUSIONS

- The Romanian society and, intrinsically its values, have been Westernized. It perceives Europe as the path to follow not the obstacle, and advocates for Romania’s further inclusion.
- The objective remains the same as prior to 1989: to become a full EU member, fully European, a Western country.
- Further research on the effects of the diaspora in Romania is needed.

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