

Diab Attends United Nations Youth Summer School on Diplomacy in Romania

By: LERC Staff

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Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab, Research/Project Assistant to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), attended from July 20 to July 26, 2015, the “5th Edition of the United Nations Youth Summer School on Diplomacy” at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, in Bucharest, Romania.

The UN Youth Summer School, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, University of Bucharest, and the United Nations Youth Association of Romania, is an educational program that provides a unique space for learning and networking for students from Romania and their peers from all around the world. Distinguished speakers contributed through diverse perspectives and experiences, and helped students formulate a better understanding of the topics covered, as well as encouraged new thinking and inspiring debates.



The participants of the UN youth Summer School, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, July 2015

This year's Summer School on Diplomacy took place from the July 20 to 26, 2015, under the general theme "*Ukraine: Beyond the Headlines.*" The project aimed to deepen and consolidate knowledge on regional and global challenges to peace and security, conflict analysis, and resolution, as well as the art of diplomacy and negotiations.

The program comprised of lectures, debates and workshops touching on current political, cultural and social challenges posed by the complex security situation that characterizes the European continent, with global implications.

The curriculum addressed general issues and theoretical aspects of International Relations, Security Studies, Peace Studies, and Diplomacy in an effort to offer a comprehensive image of the crisis that arguably started in March last year with the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. It was a geopolitical move deemed to belong to the 19th century that shocked the international community and, more specifically, woke the European Union from its post-historic dream. More precisely, the focus was on the historical evolution of the relationship between Ukraine and Russia with an emphasis on the status of Crimea, the International Law aspect of the ongoing conflict and its geopolitical significance, in order to build a better understanding of the stakes with the aim of formulating viable solutions.



Ms. Diab presented her position paper titled, "*The Return of Geopolitics after Crimea,*" as part of '3 vs. 3' debate on the fate of Geopolitics in Europe after the Ukrainian Crisis.

Participants hailed from Germany, Russia, Poland, Azerbaijan, the United States of America, Moldova, Romania, Peru, Mexico, Spain, the United Kingdom, China, Montenegro, and France. Ms. Diab was the only participant accepted from the Middle East.

Some of the most notable speakers included: H.E. Mr. Matthijs van Bonzel, Ambassador of The Netherlands to Romania; Dr. Petru Dumitriu, Minister-plenipotentiary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and Thematic Coordinator of the 2015 United Nations anniversaries in Romania; Dr. Gabriela-Cornelia Horoșanu, member of the Scientific Council of UN Youth Association of Romania, former NATO consultant within the Emerging Security Challenges Division of the European Parliament; and Mr. Radu Dudău, Co-founder and Director of the Energy Policy Group, an independent think-tank specializing in energy policy, market analytics and energy strategy.

Ms. Diab was awarded a Certificate of Participation for her completion of the summer school.