Romania Within the System of Collective Security in the Interwar Period: Regional Security Arrangements and Political-Military Cooperation

Project Code: *PSC-MApN-2020-ISPAIM-01*

Coordinating Institution: Institute for Defence Policy Studies and Military History (IPSDMH)
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Implementation Period: 2020–2024; a multi-year project carried out on the basis of IPSDMH's annual research programmes

Number of Hours: 1,600/year

Partners: Romanian National Military Archives, National Archives of Romania, Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Council for the Study of the *Securitate* Archives (CNSAS)

Project Description:

The project examines the development of Romania's system of political and military alliances during the interwar period, against the backdrop of the profound changes to the European order brought about by the First World War. It explores Romania's role in the creation of regional security and defence arrangements designed to consolidate the new geopolitical order in Europe and safeguard Romania's security interests.

A central focus of the project is the study of the Romanian-Polish alliance, the Little Entente and the Balkan Entente, together with the political and military relations developed within these frameworks. The research addresses both the strategic dimensions of these alliances and the mechanisms of political-military cooperation, security objectives, regional initiatives and geopolitical challenges confronting Romania during the interwar period. It also places the Romanian experience within the broader context of the development of regional security arrangements in Central and South-Eastern Europe, highlighting Romania's contribution to emerging forms of cooperation and collective defence.

Objectives

General Objective

Through the study of Romania's system of alliances and mechanisms of political-military cooperation during the interwar period, the project contributes to a deeper understanding of Romanian security policy, the dynamics of regional security arrangements in Central and

South-Eastern Europe, and Romania's experience of collective defence, while also bringing relevant archival heritage to wider scholarly attention.

Specific Objectives

- Identifying and researching archival collections relevant to the study of Romania's alliances and political-military cooperation;
- Selecting documents representative of the development of bilateral relations;
- Transcribing and annotating documentary sources;
- Preparing introductory studies and critical apparatus;
- Disseminating the research findings within both civilian and military academic and scholarly communities.

Activities

- Research in archives and libraries in Romania and abroad, aimed at identifying, analysing and making available documentary sources related to Romania's alliances and political-military cooperation;
- Digitisation of historical documents;
- Publication of books, studies, and articles;
- Organising and participating in scholarly conferences and other academic events devoted to the history of alliances, political-military cooperation, and regional security treaties;
- Presenting and promoting publications through activities organised in military and civilian secondary schools, at book fairs, and at cultural and academic events organised by institutions of the Ministry of National Defence, with the aim of encouraging young people's interest in military history and strengthening historical memory.

Results

Books and Edited Volumes

- *The End of the First World War and the Beginning of a New European Order / Sfârşitul Primului Război Mondial şi Începutul unei Noi Ordini Europene*, Carmen-Sorina Rîjnoveanu (ed.), Editura Militară, Bucharest, 2020, ISBN 978-973-32-1209-6 (*Open Access*);
- *Romania and Poland: A Century of Alliance / România şi Polonia: un secol de alianţă*, Carmen-Sorina Rîjnoveanu and Șerban-Liviu Pavelescu (eds.), Editura Militară, Bucharest, 2021, ISBN 978-973-32-1213-3 (*Open Access*);
- *Romania in the Little Entente: The Defensive Alliance at its Centenary / România în Mica Înțelegere. Alianța defensivă la centenar*, Carmen-Sorina Rîjnoveanu, Doru Gheorghe Liciu and Șerban-Liviu Pavelescu (eds.), with contributions by Manuel Stănescu, Daniela Șișcanu, Alexandru Voicu, Dan Taloș, Alexandru Madgearu, Victor-Răzvan Martin, Carmen-Laurenția Florea, and Valerica Arghira, Editura Militară, Bucharest, 2021, ISBN 978-973-32-1232-4 (*Open Access*);
- *A New Central Europe: 100 Years since the Creation of the First Regional Defensive System / O nouă Europă Centrală. 100 de ani de la crearea primului sistem defensiv regional*, Manuel Stănescu (ed.), Editura Militară, Bucharest, 2023, ISBN 978-973-32-1289-8 (*Open Access*);

- *Romania and the Balkan Entente: Dimensions of Political-Military Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe / România și Înțelegerea Balcanică. Dimensiuni ale cooperării politico-militare în Europa de Sud-Est*, Șerban-Liviu Pavelescu (ed.), with contributions by Tudor Vișan-Miu, Vlad-Cristian Gheorghiță, Cristina Păiușan and Gabriela Bițică, Editura Militară, Bucharest, 2024, ISBN 978-973-32-1360-4 (*Open Access*).

Academic Articles

- Carmen-Sorina Rîjnoveanu, *Romania–Poland: The Road to Alliance: Geopolitical Challenges and Regional Projects / România-Polonia. Drumul către alianță: provocări geopolitice și proiecte regionale*, *Revista de Istorie Militară*, no. 1-2/2021, pp. 27-39, ISSN 1220-5710 (*Open Access*);
- Manuel Stănescu, *Strategic and Geostrategic Considerations on the Polish-Romanian Alliance, 1921–1939 / Considerente strategice și geostrategice privind alianța polono-română, 1921-1939*, *Revista de Istorie Militară*, no. 1-2/2021, pp. 69-77, ISSN 1220-5710 (*Open Access*).

Conferences

- Sorin Cristescu, *Take Ionescu's Political Vision of Romania's Security in South-Eastern Europe / Viziunea politică a lui Take Ionescu privind securitatea României în spațiul sud-est European*, presented at the international conference *"Romania within the Security System of Central and South-Eastern Europe: Objectives, Developments and Challenges (1921–1922)"*, organised by the Defence Staff through the "King Ferdinand I" National Military Museum - Iași Branch, 24 June 2022.
- Round table on *Take Ionescu – Vision and Destiny: 100 Years since the Death of the Great Statesman and Diplomat / Take Ionescu – viziune și destin. 100 de ani de la moartea marelui om politic și diplomat*, National Military Circle, 16 June 2022, Bucharest.

Costs

Total project value: Determined annually through the Institute's research programme.
Funding Source: Sectoral Programme of the Ministry of National Defence.