

# Chair's Greetings

Text - Daniel List

Dear Gazeta Readers:

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the second issue of the Gazeta this year, themed “legacy”. This edition explores the enduring historical events that impact governmental, societal, and other communities within the Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European (REEE) regions during the turbulent times of the Cold War and beyond.

With my recent visit to Romania and Moldova back in March, I witnessed the legacy of the communist past still existent within both country's societies. While visiting Romania, you can feel that the Romanian people still struggle to gain the government's trust after they have suffered harshly under Ceaușescu's regime. Slowly but surely, the wounds from Ceaușescu's regime are still healing. During my visit to Moldova, I noticed the immediate fallout from the Soviet Union's forced Russification, where you hear the local population either speaking Russian or Romanian in Chisinau. Many individuals from both nationalities are trying to preserve their culture and livelihood. As you read my article on my recent travel to Moldova's breakaway region, Transnistria, I have gained a whole new perspective on how the Soviet influence was able to put a massive footprint on both Romania and Moldova throughout the Cold War.



The collection of stories you are about to read is evidence that the resilience and diversity of the individuals are directly impacted by historical legacies within the REEE region. These stories shared from a wide range of perspectives, recount both positive and negative memories of historical decisions brought on by their governments. They faced many challenges and made progress, which has shaped their lives today. The stories show how past events within the REEE region have shaped people's feelings and lives and created new identities for themselves through the good and the bad that they had to overcome. The collection of stories for the second issue is designed to help us understand how history affects our present and future. I especially thank the many writers, volunteers, and graphic designers for creating this amazing issue for our readers who have a passionate interest in the REEE region.

Thank you once again for your enduring support of the Gazeta. We hope you enjoy reading our second issue, legacy.