

MINORITIES ISSUE - FROM IGNORANCE TO CONCERN AT THE EASTERN BORDER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: THE ROMA POPULATION

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Abstract. *The minorities issue was always a corner stone for the Central and South-Eastern European countries during their negotiations with the European Union. The Roma issue represents a particular chapter, not only for its large number, but also because of its complexity, the involved actors and the political and social stakes that accompanied it. The present paper intends to illustrate the interdependence relation of two components: identity and security, focusing on the potential interethnic conflict, international legislation, the way in which different aspects of the legislative approach regarding human rights and protection of national and ethnic minorities influenced the relation between state (majority) and minority (Roma population) in several Central and South-Eastern European countries.*

Keywords: *ethnic minority, security, social integration, (inter)national legislation, *acquis communautaire*.*