

**Exchanging views on security perception
and possibilities of enhancing cooperation in Central Europe**
Expert workshop, 28 February, 2014 – Budapest, Hungary

The shared desire of Central European countries for democratization and modernization have been embodied in Euro-Atlantic integration throughout the past two and a half decades. The period of peace, stability and prosperity these peoples have never enjoyed before was successfully achieved by means of deepening cooperation. However, the financial crisis that has hit some countries in the region particularly hard, intensified societal tensions and strengthened the desire to pursue diverging short term interests, giving rise to nationalist, populist and extremist tendencies. Recalling the lessons learnt from regional cooperation as opposed to confrontation, we firmly believe that Central Europe must react to these challenges with boosting cooperation among our societies and political elites, as well as experts.

There are plenty of opportunities in this regard even in the specialized fields of security and defense. Therefore, Hungarian experts – representing the Center for Strategic and Defense Studies and partner research institutions, supported by the National University of Public Service – strive to build on the momentum provided by recently strengthening ties with regional partners and invite esteemed researchers of political and social sciences, as well as security policy experts to a workshop in Budapest on 28 February, 2014.

The aim of the workshop is to exchange our views on security perception in our respective countries and on possibilities of enhancing cooperation in Central Europe. The event would also serve as a ground for our present and prospective partners to map up possibilities of joint research in the field. In order to make preparation for the workshop more focused and easier, the following issues are identified in advance as the core topics of discussion (a detailed schedule and a food for thought paper are to follow soon):

Session I: Security perception

- How do people and experts approach security in your country on the spectrum from traditional (military) elements towards a broad understanding, also including economic, political, societal, environmental, etc. factors as well?
- Do people in your country look more inward or to abroad when perceiving threats to security?
- Do people in your country perceive any kind of threats to their security – if so, what are these?
- To what extent are securitizing practices present in the political culture and among the means of political or societal actors in your country?

Session II: Armed forces, defense and regional cooperation

- How is military security defined and what role do military threats play in security perception in your country?
- How do people in your country relate to the armed forces regarding prestige and trust? How much is it reflected in terms of the defense budget provided? (I.e. Is there a correlation between low/high prestige and low/high levels of funding for defense?)
- What practical expectations are observable towards the armed forces on behalf of the people?

The Workshop is funded by the project 'ÁROP-2.2.21. 'Tudásalapú közszolgálati előmenetel' and supported by the Institute of International Affairs at the National University of Public Service.



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A projekt az Európai Unió támogatásával, az Európai Szociális Alap társfinanszírozásával valósult meg.



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(I.e. explosive ordnance disposal, participation in disaster relief, ceremonial and traditional duties)

- What is the opinion of the people about current and prospective multinational cooperation in the field of security and defense? (I.e. Does multinational cooperation include being in the same alliance, participating in joint training and missions, or can go beyond with joint procurements, air policing or even territorial defense performed by or together with members of the armed forces of another country?)

Session III: Societal security and conflict

- Do people perceive any type of societal security concerns, conflicts in your country?
- How does majority society perceive non-integrated people within society, does it have a relevance to security? (I.e. Non-integrated people (the extremely poor, the undereducated, the segregated etc.) are perceived as i) a concern to social services and a burden to welfare, ii) a concern to order and public safety, iii) as a delaying factor to the modernization of the society, iv) as a factor causing underdevelopment and lagging behind (preventing modernization).)
- Is there an observable presence of anti-Roma sentiment in your country?
- Are there any societal and/or political actors that openly advocate anti-Roma sentiments?

Date and venue of the workshop: February 28, 10.00 – 15.30, National University of Public Service, Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training, 9-11. Hungária körút, 1101 Budapest, Hungary

Registration: 9.30 – 10.00

Coffee breaks (20 min.): 11.10 and 12.40

Lunch: 14.30-15.30 (in Danubius Hotel Arena, 5 minutes from NUPS)

The event is not open to media.

List of participants invited:

CIOCULESCU, Serban, Professor, University of Bucharest, Department of Political Sciences, Romania

CSEPELI, György, Professor, Social Sciences Faculty, Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, Hungary

CSIKI, Tamás, Analyst, Center for Strategic and Defense Studies (CSDS), Budapest, Hungary

DYČKA, Lukáš, Research fellow, Center for Security and Military Strategic Studies, University of Defense, Brno, Czech Republic

HAMBERGER, Judit, Senior Research Fellow, Hungarian Institute for International Affairs (HIAA), Budapest, Hungary

LADÁNYI, János, Professor, Social Sciences Faculty, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Brig. Gen (ret.) Ing. MICANEK, Frantisek, Director, Center for Security and Military Strategic Studies, University of Defense, Brno, Czech Republic

ÖRKÉNY, Antal, Professor, Social Sciences Faculty, Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, Hungary

SARCINSCHI, Alexandra, Senior researcher, Center for Defense and Security Strategic Studies, 'Karol I.' National Defense University, Bucharest, Romania

SUPLATA, Milan, Director of Foreign Policy and Defence Research at Central European Policy Institute (CEPI), Bratislava, Slovakia

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Preliminary Program

SZABÓ, László, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Strategic and Defense Studies (CSDS), Budapest, Hungary

Gen. (ret.) SZENES, Zoltán, Head, Department of International and Security Studies, National University of Public Service (NUPS), Budapest, Hungary

TÁLAS, Péter, Director, Center for Strategic and Defense Studies (CSDS), Budapest, Hungary

TÓTH, István György, Director, TÁRKI Social Research Institute, Budapest, Hungary

VARGA, Ádám, Senior Research Fellow, Hungarian Institute for International Affairs (HIAA), Budapest, Hungary

VARGA, Gergely, Analyst, Center for Strategic and Defense Studies (CSDS), Budapest, Hungary

VASS, Róbert, Secretary General, Slovak Atlantic Commission (SAC), Bratislava, Slovakia

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