



## CALL FOR PAPERS

# REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Call for English language, country-specific papers to be published in a study volume. The volume will be edited and published by the Center for Strategic and Defense Studies (National University of Public Service (NUPS), Budapest, Hungary). The volume reviews how approaches and concrete commitments to and involvement in regional cooperation have evolved in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) between 1989 and 2017 from the perspective of the following CEE countries: Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

The volume will contain 10 country-specific reports, each 40.000 characters long. Seeking best quality and most suitable form, the authors will be local experts of the CEE countries who ideally deal with the foreign policy of their country and their bi- and multilateral relations in the CEE region, selected through a competitive process. Each author is fully responsible for the content of his/her own chapter.

Interested potential authors need to submit a 500-word-long abstract via E-mail to the editor by December 1, 2017, outlining the key theses that he/she deems important to include in the paper in line with the proposed structure of the papers (see below). The editor will be a Hungarian expert, Zsuzsanna Végh, keeping contact and coordinating the work of the authors ([zsuzsannavegh.zv@gmail.com](mailto:zsuzsannavegh.zv@gmail.com)). All applicants will be notified via E-mail by December 15, 2017 and selected contributors will also be informed about the due process of contracting.

Authors will receive a symbolic financial compensation: a gross amount of ca. 460-480 EUR (depending on the HUF/EUR exchange ratio), for which all related author's and copyrights are to be transferred to NUPS. The formal requirements of the single papers are listed below (Guidelines for authors). The volume will be published in English in 2019.

### Important milestones / deadlines of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: Country-specific studies

September 1 – December 1, 2017:	Identifying and contacting prospective authors
December 15, 2017:	Contracting authors and coordinating writing
April 1, 2018:	Submission of manuscripts, 1 <sup>st</sup> review begins
May 15, 2018:	Manuscripts are returned to authors
June 15, 2018:	Submission of finalized papers
July 30, 2018:	2 <sup>nd</sup> review finished, manuscripts finalized

### 3<sup>rd</sup> phase: Comparative studies

Comparative studies will be written, complementing the original country studies on the approach of selected groups of countries to regional cooperation, e.g. the V4. These will be published as part of the study volume.





## Conceptual starting point

Regional cooperation most often serves to deepen ties generally among neighboring states to ensure their own security and stability, to address cross-border challenges and threats affecting a group of states (or their parts) let those be of economic, environmental, security etc. nature, or to leverage their (bargaining) power in other international fora. Naturally, a multitude of formats can co-exist in any region with overlapping membership, either in institutionalized, formalized or in more informal settings.

With the end of the Cold War and following the collapse of the Eastern Block, the region of Central and Eastern Europe has undergone fundamental changes. While certain countries regained their sovereignty and set out on the road of political, economic and societal transformation, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the eventual dissolution of Yugoslavia, others have also gained independence and had to undertake the often conflictual process of nation-building on top of the several layers of transition. Along with a general re-orientation toward the West, the desire and rational need to (re-)establish regional ties have emerged, too.

The similar starting point and challenges ahead led to the establishment of a variety of regional multilateral cooperation formats, initiated either by its members or by outside actors. Over the past two and a half decades, these frameworks have served multiple purposes, e.g. supported members to reach broader foreign and security policy goals (e.g. the Visegrad Cooperation or the Regional Cooperation Council), to overcome economic barriers and support economic development (e.g. CEFTA), to increase economic ties (e.g. the Black Sea Economic Cooperation) etc. providing, in parallel, the opportunity for the improvement of neighborly relations. Countries of Central and Eastern Europe entered into regional cooperation in a range of sectoral areas, either under thematically broader frameworks (see, for example, infrastructural or defense policy within the Visegrad Group) or by establishing dedicated frameworks (see the Salzburg Forum for justice and home affairs). The importance of the existing constellations has naturally changed over time: some seem to have faded (e.g. the Central European Initiative), others live their revival (most recently, the Visegrad Group), some transformed and changed membership (like CEFTA), while new formats appear even now (like the Slavkov Triangle). Naturally, many of them stretch beyond the 10 countries we defined as Central and Eastern Europe, like the Weimar Triangle, GUAM, and some of those mentioned above.

In our case studies, we will attempt to grasp the ever changing dynamics of regional cooperation in the Central and Eastern European region from the perspective of the 10 countries under study. While we expect that our focus will be predominantly on cooperation formats with memberships dominated by the very 10 countries, we acknowledge the necessity to incorporate those constellations into our analysis which only include 1-2 of the 10 countries, but for those are important due to their geographic or thematic foci. Overlooking these would limit our understanding of how the individual states perceive their position, regional engagements and cooperation with neighbors as such.

## Research questions

The case studies seek to explore what role regional cooperation as a form of multilateral cross-border cooperation has played in the foreign, security, economic and sectoral policies of the Central and Eastern European countries since 1989/90, how cooperation with neighbors have contributed and in which constellations to achieving their policy goals. The case studies will thus not limit





themselves by reviewing specific (formalized) cooperation formats and how each country perceives them, but will instead take the approach of identifying what policy priorities each state has set out to achieve, entirely or partly, through regional cooperation and what channels it chose for those over time. This will allow for taking into account also those cooperation formats which are not entirely focused on Central and Eastern Europe, but have their focal points in surrounding regions.

The research questions for the case studies thus are as follows:

- 1) What role does regional cooperation play in the a) foreign, b) security, c) economic and d) selected sectoral policies of the studied countries? How invested is each country in regional cooperation?
- 2) Which are the key policy areas where each country is keen on seeking regional allies in achieving its policy goals, and who can be identified as the given country's key allies in the various policy sectors?

As the case studies take a historical perspective, they will be able to track how the importance of regional cooperation, its sectoral priorities and regional foci has changed, as well as how the set of key allies and thus preferred formats have evolved over time (due to policy result, changes in governments/priorities etc.). The case studies will also attempt to assess if the studied states benefitted from the selected formats of cooperation, and if they contributed to policy success, while keeping in mind of course that due to the multitude of intervening variables correlation is more likely to be established than direct causation. On this basis, the final research question can be summarized as follows:

- 3) Have the cooperation formats each state has prioritized in the studies sectors lived up to the state's expectations? To put it bluntly, were they successful for the state?

The individual case studies will therefore not discuss whether various formats of regional cooperation as such (e.g. the Visegrad Cooperation, the Regional Cooperation Council and the list goes on) were "successful". That could rather be the task of the comparative case studies to address such questions based on the historical and thematic overview as well as the brief assessments of the individual case studies.

## Proposed structure of the papers

### 1. Understanding of the 'region' the country is part of – overview since 1989

- Where does the country position itself?
- Delimitation of the geographic foci the country generally considers 'regional' (as it appears in official documents, strategies, narratives);
- Historic roots, geographic determinants of this understanding;
- Competing visions;
- Place of regional cooperation in the country's toolkit: brief assessment of its general importance, if it is a priority.





## 2. Political priorities and foreign policy

- What regional political and foreign policy priorities have been set by the country over time? Why these? Give a brief context on why those are important for the country.
- Have general political and foreign policy priorities received a regional dimension, have they been sought to be achieved through/with the support of regional cooperation? If so, which ones and how? Consider foreign policy (re-)orientation, democratization, minority rights, improvement of neighborly relations, (ethnic and non-ethnic) conflicts, state-/nation-building etc.
- What cooperation formats have the country engaged in to pursue said goals? What role has it played in them (e.g. active initiator, member, observer)? Who have proven to be key allies and potential opponents (within but potentially also outside the region)? Why?
- How have these formats worked out? Have they brought results? What kind of results? Keep in mind the difference between correlation and causation.

## 3. Regional security, security in the region

- What regional security priorities have been set by the country over time? Why these? Give a brief context on why those are important for the country.
- Have general security priorities received a regional dimension, have they been sought to be achieved through/with the support of regional cooperation? If so, which ones and how? Consider changing threats and their perceptions (hard and soft), geopolitical (re-)orientation, conflict (resolution) etc. as well as cooperation in defense, justice and home affairs, environmental policy etc. (*Energy security will be discussed later.*)
- What cooperation formats have the country engaged in to pursue said goals? What role has it played in them (e.g. active initiator, member, observer)? Who have proven to be key allies and potential opponents (within but potentially also outside the region)? Why?
- How have these formats worked out? Have they brought results? What kind of results? Keep in mind the difference between correlation and causation.

## 4. Regional interconnectedness and connectedness to trans-European networks

*This subchapter will discuss economic and physical, infrastructural interconnectedness with a focus on the fields of trade, investment, transport/transportation and energy infrastructure.*

- What cooperation formats have the country engaged in to decrease trade barriers and increase trade and investment with its regional partners? Which partners have these focused on? Can specific sectors be identified? What role has it played in them (e.g. active initiator, member, observer)? Have they brought results? Keep in mind the difference between correlation and causation.
- Provide tables as appendices about 1) trade turn-over 2) IFDI and 3) OFDI between the country, its 5 key partners and the 9 other CEE countries studied for 1990-2017.

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- What cooperation formats have the country engaged in to increase its physical interconnectedness in the region and to trans-European networks (TEN)? What resources, financial support has the country used and sought to improve its infrastructural connectedness? Consider own, joint and external sources, too. Which partners and geographic directions have these focused on? What role has it played in them (e.g. active initiator, member, observer)? Have they brought results? How has the country's physical connectedness improve as a result?

## 5. Conclusions and outlook

- What have been the key regional priorities of the country and how have they changed over time? Why?
- What regional cooperation formats have the country prioritized and who have proven to be its key allies? Why?
- Has regional cooperation been a successful tool for the country to pursue its interests? Why? What results have been achieved?
- Given the balance of the above questions, in what areas and formats can we expect the country to be active in the coming few years? Will there be a re-orientation in focus and format? Why?

**Submission deadline for abstracts: December 1, 2017** ([zsuzsannavegh.zv@gmail.com](mailto:zsuzsannavegh.zv@gmail.com)).

Please indicate your institutional affiliation and position, also providing E-mail and telephone contact together with the abstract.

