



CALL FOR PAPERS

THE UNITED STATES AND CENTRAL EUROPE: CHANGING DYNAMICS?

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 the political, economic and institutional relationship of the United States and 10 Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries 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 with U.S. foreign policy issues, 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 of U.S.-CEE relations, Dr. Anna Péczeli (NUPS), responsible for the coordination of the work of the authors (peczeli.anna@uni-nke.hu). 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 1st & 2nd 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 st review begins
May 15, 2018:	Manuscripts are returned to authors
June 15, 2018:	Submission of finalized papers
July 30, 2018:	2 nd review finished, manuscripts finalized

3rd phase: Comparative studies

Based on the country-specific chapters, comparative studies will be written, complementing the original country studies, i.e. on the relations of the Visegrád countries with the U.S. These will be published as part of the study volume.





Conceptual starting point (as exemplified by Hungary):

U.S. – Hungarian relations have undergone a profound change since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and Hungary's accession to NATO in 1999. The United States was instrumental in the democratic transitions of Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the region received significant financial support to facilitate their political and economic transformation. Although Hungary is a small state with limited economic and military potential, it has been a solid ally of the U.S. in the Balkans and in the war in Afghanistan and Iraq as well. According to the Wikileaks cables, the status of democracy, the influence of extreme – right or left wing – political parties, Russia relations and energy dependency are the primary issues of concern from the U.S. perspective. Despite the fact that some disagreements in these questions have overshadowed U.S. – Hungarian relations during the past few years, the institutional ties have never been challenged by either side. In this regard, the incoming Trump administration brings a new opportunity and Hungary seems to be hopeful about further deepening the political, economic and military cooperation between the two states.

Research questions:

The countries of the CEE region have different approaches towards the U.S. and they are also not equally important from Washington's perspective. It seems that perceptions on the Russian threat and Russian relations in general are key factors in this regard. Thus, one of the major questions is how CEE countries see the relationship with the U.S.? What are the expectations under the next administration? What kind of role does the U.S. play in the security policy of these states? How does Russian behavior influence U.S. – CEE relations in bi- and multilateral formats? What is the role and future of NATO from a CEE perspective? Which areas are considered to be a success and what are the weak points of U.S. cooperation? How could the cooperation be further developed? What are the main obstacles, and what are the most promising opportunities?

Proposed structure of papers:

1. *Bilateral political relations since 1989*

- Shared and converging interests in the bilateral context;
- Diverging interests in the bilateral context;
- Unresolved disputes and problematic issues;
- Public opinion and domestic rhetoric towards the United States;
- How the 'Russian factor' influenced the dynamics of U.S. – CEE relations;
- Pointing out if and how things have changed since accession to the EU/NATO (where appropriate).

As a general approach, chronological overview of the processes and trends is desirable, highlighting important milestones, turning points and breaks (i.e. Kosovo air campaign, 9/11, Afghanistan, Iraq war, Crimea).





2. Economic relations since 1989 (please provide data where possible)

- Commercial (export-import) relations (high/low exposure vis-à-vis the U.S.);
- Trends in commercial relations: is the share of the U.S. increasing or decreasing, especially since accession to the EU, or the share of U.S. FDI of the total FDI in the given country?
- U.S. foreign direct investments and company ownership structure in respective CEE countries;
- U.S. banking sector activity and financial cooperation.

3. Policy field-specific relations

- Security policy relations/cooperation (civilian-civilian – military-military);
- Threat perceptions of the CEE region – the implications of Russian behavior over the past few years, the sanctions against Russia, influencing U.S. – CEE relations;
- Domestic political divisions (if any) about the relations with the U.S.; positions of the main political actors, government and opposition parties, etc.;
- Perceptions on the role of NATO, the view on the further enlargement of NATO, European contributions to NATO;
- Domestic issues (democratic values, rule of law, corruption, Security Sector Reform, etc.).

Conclusions and outlook: *What do respective countries expect from the Trump administration regarding bilateral relations and allied coherence within NATO; what will be the key issues of concern and how respective countries might gain/lose on these issues?*

Submission deadline for abstracts: December 1, 2017 (peczeli.anna@uni-nke.hu).

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

