

Group for Central and Southeast European Political Research (GCSEPR)

Central Europe's role and importance as a world power has been constantly changing over the centuries. As a transitional area between South, East and West, it has always tried to act as a bridge and provide a framework for thinking and mentality. It has also functioned as a dividing line, not only geographically but also politically, religiously and socially.

Central European states have historically been linked to the Balkans, Russia and Turkey with varying degrees of intensity, but always with important political and economic ties. This is no different in the 21st century, as economic and cultural ties are unchanged by changes in political regimes, interdependence is growing as crises hit each other, and challenges can only be met effectively by working together. It is therefore no coincidence that the role of Central and, more broadly, South-Eastern Europe is gaining in importance, with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Greece and Bulgaria on the external borders of the European Union, and Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Albania, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey having expressed their desire to become part of the European Community.

We believe that a research centre with a Central and South-Eastern Europe focus, established under the auspices of the Department of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Pécs, with a broad outlook towards the Balkans and Turkey, could bring new perspectives and dimensions to social science research, which could create new and closer higher education cooperation than ever before. The broad spectrum of research will also allow the creation of skills that can provide an effective framework for future joint training programmes.

We focus our research on the region, which is a natural arc from the Visegrad Cooperation countries through the Balkans to Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Our research is not only concerned with the domestic and foreign policy processes, political, economic and social phenomena and institutional actors (political parties, governmental actors,



diplomacy, etc.) of the countries in the region, but also with non-formal actors (movements, non-profit organisations, civil networks).

The planned institutions of the research centre are University of Pécs, Hungary; University of Warsaw, Poland; Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey,

Most relevant previous projects and activities

1. “Second Tier project” Empirical research that involved 14 states. International coordinator Dr. Björn Egner – Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter Leiter des Arbeitsbereichs „Methoden der Politikwissenschaft/Wissenschaftstheorie“ Technische Universität Darmstadt – Institut für Politikwissenschaft Residenzschloss, Darmstadt. Contributor
2. 529548-LLP-1-2012-1-HU-AJM-PO. “Borderless Europe” Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (2012-2015) Research leader and coordinator position
3. KÖFOP-2.1.2-VEKOP-15-2016-00001 “Good governance and public service’s developments” project, Local Government section 2017/18. Research Plan “Modernization” programme (Nr. of research project: NKE/5952-2/2017) 2017-2019
4. EU EFOP-3.6.3-VEKOP-16-2017-00007 “Young researchers from talented students – Fostering scientific careers in higher education”. Research leader position (2017-2021)
5. 20765-3/2018/FEKUSTRAT “Higher Education Excellence Programme” project, 3/1. „Innovation for the sustainable, more healthy life” (2018-2021) Research leader position
5. Understanding Identities and Regions: Perspectives on V4 and WB, IVF project (Grant No.: 21820078) (2021) Contributor
6. Conquering the Social Media? Digital public diplomacy of Hungary and Greece during the COVID-19 pandemic. NKFI (OTKA) Grant, 2021-2024, Grant code: PD138100.

Researchers:

University of Pécs, Department of Political Science and International Studies

László Kákai, Professor (Head of the research group)

Viktor Glied, Associate professor

Andrea Schmidt, Associate professor

Máté Deák, Assistant professor

Péter Kacziba, Assistant professor

Zoltán Lechner, Assistant professor



Hacettepe University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Department of International Relations

Emel G. OKTAY, Professor

Esengül Ayaz Avan, Assistant Professor

Kadri Kaan Renda, Assistant Professor

University of Warsaw, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies

Jacek Wojnicki, Professor

Adam Szymański, Associate Professor

Daniel Przystek, Associate Professor

Olgierd Annusewicz, Associate Professor

Łukasz Zamęcki, Associate Professor

Agnieszka Bejma, Assistant Professor

Małgorzata Kaczorowska, Assistant Professor

Marcin Tobiasz, Assistant Professor

Marta Balcerek-Kosiarz, Assistant Professor

Marta Bożewicz, Assistant Professor

Prof. Dr. KÁKAI László
Professor
Head of Department
University of Pécs

