



# Programme

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. European Office

## Geopolitics in Central and Eastern Europe

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022 – Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022

Online via Zoom

### Content:

Great power rivalries have existed for millennia. The Cold War is the tensest on European terrain after the end of the Second World War. Whereas the two victorious powers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, had initially fought as allies against National Socialist Germany, they perceived themselves as being threatened by each other. Growing antagonism and completely contrary world views led to a Cold War that lasted for more than forty years and deeply divided East and West.



With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the reunification of Germany, the geopolitical map of the continent changed profoundly. Altogether, twenty-two successor states arose out of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Many of these Central and Eastern European states sought integration into established Western security and defence alliances immediately after gaining their sovereignty. As part of the EU's eastern enlargement, Slovenia became the first successor state of Yugoslavia to join the European community of states in 2001. The Baltic states followed, as three successor states of the Soviet Union.

Geographically, the Central and Eastern European states (CEE) lie at the intersection of overlapping, even competing, zones of influence. The region is positioned in the centre of the intensifying antagonism between NATO and Russia. In addition, external forces are increasingly entering the scene in the eastern part of the EU and non-EU member states in the region in an attempt to expand their influence in the area. While great power rivalry is again shaping international relations the dominance of the US-led "West" appears to be eroding. The world's economic centre is shifting rapidly to the Asia-Pacific region.



More than thirty years after the Cold War, many Central and Eastern European countries, while firmly politically and economically integrated in the EU and the "West" - look eastwards for new economic possibilities and to strengthen national sovereignty. What geopolitical role can Central and Eastern Europe play in today's world? Can it (does it want to) become a bridge between Europe and Asia?



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Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022

09:30 h – 10:00 h

**Start of the conference. Welcome and Introductory remarks by**

**Zoltán Tibor Pállinger**

Rector  
Andrassy University Budapest

**Hardy Ostry**

Director  
European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

**Heinrich Kreft**

Head Center for Diplomacy  
Andrassy University Budapest

10:00 h - 10:30 h

**Central and Eastern Europe in the global context**

**Christoph Heusgen** (*online via Zoom*)

Chairmann, Professor  
Board of the Trustees of the MSC Foundation, University of St. Gallen

10:30 h - 11:30 h

**Geopolitics in CEE – Let the figures talk**

**Heinrich Kreft**

Head Center for Diplomacy  
Andrassy University Budapest

11:30 h - 12:00 h

**Coffee break**

12:00 h – 13:30 h

**Unit 1: Interests and relations with CEE countries**

**Perspective Russia**

**Maxim Samorukov**

Fellow  
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

**Perspective Germany**

**Stefan Mair**

Director  
German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin

**Perspective Turkey**

**Hüysen Bağcı**

President  
Foreign Policy Institute, Ankara



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## Perspective China

**Lirong Liu**

Associate Professor  
Fudan University, Shanghai

13:30 h - 14:30 h

**Lunch break**

14:30 h - 16:00 h

## Unit 2 : The CEE countries from the inside

### Perspective Western Balkans

**Suzana Grubješić** (*online via Zoom*)

Senior Consultant, Center for Foreign Policy  
Former Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Belgrade

### Perspective Viségrad Group

**Alena Kudzko**

Vice-President GLOBSEC  
Director GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava

### Perspective Hungary

**András Hettyey**

Assistant Professor  
University of Public Service, Budapest

### Perspective South East Europe

**Sorin Ioniță**

Expert  
Expert Forum (EFOR), Bucharest

16:00 h - 16:30 h

**Coffee break**

16:30 h - 18:30 h

## Unit 3 : Concluding panel and discussion: What role for CEE-countries in Europe and beyond?

### Moderation

**Heinrich Kreft**

Head Center for Diplomacy  
Andrassy University Budapest

### Panelists

**Amb. (ret.) Lee Feinstein** (*online via Zoom*)

President  
McLarty Associates, Washington, D.C.

**Reinhold Lopatka**

Member of the Austrian National Council, Vienna



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**Sorin Ioniță**

Expert  
Expert Forum (EFOR), Bucharest

**Alena Kudzko**

Vice-President GLOBSEC  
Director GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava

18:30 h **End of programme**

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**Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022**

10:00 h – 11:30 h **Closing panel: What does the Russian attack on Ukraine mean for Central and Eastern Europe?**

**All speakers and a speaker from Ukraine**

11:30 h – 12:30 h **Lunch break**

12:30 h – 13:30 h **“The role of the KAS in Budapest”**  
Farewell words by

**Michael Winzer**

Director  
Hungary Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

13:30 h **End of programme**