

Danube-Institute for Interdisziplinäre Research
Andrássy University Budapest

FIRST WORKSHOP ANDRÁSSY FORUM FOR WESTERN BALKAN STUDIES

EXPERT SESSION ON ELITE SYSTEMS IN SOUTHEAST, CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

TIME: 26 MARCH 2014, 14.30 – 17.00 HOURS (WORKSHOP WESTERN BALKAN STUDIES)
27 MARCH 2014, 9.00 – 11.30 HOURS (WORKSHOP WESTERN BALKAN STUDIES)
27 MARCH 2014, 13.30 – 18.00 HOURS (EXPERT SESSION ELITE SYSTEMS)

LOCATION: MIRROR HALL, ANDRÁSSY UNIVERSITY BUDAPEST
H-1088 BUDAPEST, POLLACK MIHÁLY TÉR 3

The Andrássy University Budapest is pleased to announce the first meeting of the Andrássy Forum for Western Balkan Studies on the 26th and 27th of March 2014 in Budapest. This **First Workshop** will bring together academic expertise from Germany and Austria, the Visegrad Four (V4) and the Western Balkan (WB) states. The research focus of the forum is the analysis of the relationship between Visegrad Four and Western Balkan states in the various processes of EU integration.

The **Expert Session** on Elite Systems in Southeast, Central and Eastern Europe in the afternoon of the 27th of March is organised by the Research Network for Elite Systems in Central-, Eastern and Southeast Europe and the Andrássy Forum for Western Balkan Studies and will be hosted at the Andrássy University Budapest. The focus of this afternoon workshop will be on the roles of political elites in the various democratisation processes in the region.

The workshop is supported by the International Visegrad Fund. The expert session and selected participants of the workshop are supported by the project TÁMOP-4.2.2/B-10/1-2010-0015.

26 March, afternoon session, and 27 March, morning session: *Perspectives of each other: the Visegrad and the Western Balkan experience*

The 26 March afternoon session of the workshop will offer presentations on the perspectives of the Visegrad states towards the Western Balkan and on the perspectives of the countries of Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina towards Europe. The 27 March morning session will offer further case studies: Albania and Croatia, as well as a presentation on the relationship between research and the needs of societies in transition. Research questions, which will be addressed in the presentations, are: Can Western Balkan states learn from the transformation and integration experiences of the Visegrad states? Is regional co-operation in the Western Balkan region similar to Visegrad Four co-operation in Central Europe a viable path to accelerate European integration? Does the Croatian EU accession experience form a model of EU integration for the candidate and potential candidate countries in the Western Balkans?

27 March, afternoon session: *Elite Systems in Southeast, Central and Eastern Europe*

In the afternoon of the 27th March 2014 a joint expert meeting, organised by the **Research Network for Elite Systems in Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe** and the **Andrássy Forum for Western Balkan Studies**, will be hosted at the Andrassy University Budapest. The focus of this afternoon workshop will be on the roles of political elites in the various democratisation processes in the region. This workshop may be of interest for everyone focusing on the political actors during the political transformation processes. The Third Wave of democratisation led to a democratic awakening of the former socialist states in Southeast, Central and Eastern Europe. Many of those states are regarded as examples of a successful democratisation process. The comparative transformation research has demonstrated the outstanding role of political elites for the development and the operation of democratic systems. The region of Southeast, Central and Eastern Europe constitutes an excellent laboratory for comparative transformation elite research, as states located in this area are in various states of the transformation process. The spectrum reaches from fully to less consolidated democracies to hybrid and authoritarian regimes. The institutionalisation of democracy and a free market economy has made huge advances during the last two decades, but the adaption of the societal structures and the development of a democratic political culture have proven to be more difficult and tedious. Especially in the area of gender equality reverse processes can be detected in the former socialist states. This is visible in the inadequate representation of women in the political process and in leadership positions in politics.

It can be stated that there is no lack of country-specific studies. However, a systematic comparative overview of the elite systems in Southeast, Central and Eastern Europe is still lacking. The workshop and the expert session will lay foundations for a compendium of the elite systems of Southeast, Central and Eastern Europe. This compendium will focus on the recruitment, the representation, the functionality, the performance, and the legitimacy of elites, whereby all aspects will be analysed in a strictly comparative perspective. Particular attention will be given to issues of gender equality.

26 MARCH, AFTERNOON SESSION

PERSPECTIVES OF EACH OTHER: THE VISEGRAD AND WESTERN BALKAN EXPERIENCE

14:30 – 17:00 **Chair:** Christopher Walsch

Vedran Džihic: *The relationship between the Visegrad Four and the Western Balkans*

Nataša Beširević: *The Croatian EU accession: a potential model for future EU enlargement?*

Nenad Koprivica: *Perspectives of Montenegro towards the EU path*

Ešref Kenan Rašidagić: *Bosnia in Dire Straits: Comprehensive Reform as Prerequisite for the EU Accession*

Discussion

27 MARCH 2014, MORNING SESSION

PERSPECTIVES OF EACH OTHER: THE VISEGRAD AND WESTERN BALKAN EXPERIENCE

09:00 – 11:00 **Chair:** Christina Griessler

Dashamir Berxulli: *Linking research and the needs of a society in transition*

Elian Gjini: *Albania's slow transformation: possible causes*

Senada Šelo Šabić: *The Croatian accession experience – (ir)relevant for further enlargement in the Western Balkans?*

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Conclusion of the Workshop
Christopher Walsch and Christina Griessler

11:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

27 MARCH 2014, AFTERNOON SESSION

EXPERT SESSION ON ELITE SYSTEMS IN SOUTHEAST, CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

13:30 Introduction
Ellen Bos / Zoltán Tibor Pállinger

13:45 **Réka Várnagy:** *Women representation in political elites in Central and Eastern Europe*

14:15 **Ada Regelmann:** *Die Rolle politischer Institutionen in der Herausbildung von Minderheitseliten in post-kommunistischen MOE Staaten*

- 14:45 **Helmut Fehr:** *Elites in Central Eastern Europe*
- 15:15 **Sela Ylber:** *Mazedonien und die Europäische Integration: Die Rolle der Eliten in diesem Prozess*
- 15:45 – 16:15 Coffee Break
- 16:15 **Imre Szilágyi** (tbc): *Slovenian and Croatian Elites*
- 16:45 **Ralf Thomas Göllner:** *Political Elites in Romania*
- 17:15 **Umut Korkut:** *Elites and Liberalization*
- 17:45 **Ellen Bos:** *Scientific Research at Andrassy University Budapest under the auspices of the TAMOP-4.2.2/B-10/1-2010-0015 support scheme: a conclusion*
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