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Central and Eastern Europe Think Tank Summit Report

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While fiscal packages of 5-10% of national GDPs have helped prevent major job loss, the regional economy is expected to contract 5% because of the decreased demand for export, meaning increased demand for domestic markets and internal trade will warrant new policy advice.

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Comments

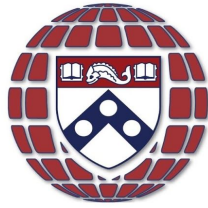
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TTCSP

THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



2020 VIRTUAL
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
THINK TANK SUMMIT
REPORT

Alexander Basescu, TTCSP Central and Eastern Europe Project Lead, University of Edinburgh

Emma Harris, TTCSP Regional Summit Director, University of Pennsylvania

James McGann, TTCSP Director, University of Pennsylvania

Alisa Wadsworth, TTCSP Regional Summit Director, University of Pennsylvania

Thank You

Dear friends and colleagues,

I would like to formally thank you for your participation in the 2020 Virtual Central and Eastern Europe Think Tank Summit (CEETTS). September 23rd was no ordinary Wednesday; it was a day where collaboration between experts, scholars, think tank executives, and regional leaders disseminated ideas that will save lives and help think tanks navigate the unprecedented challenges of the current COVID-19 crisis. In this report, we will share statistics about who participated in the CEETTS, takeaways discussed in each panel, and honor those who made the CEETTS an opportunity for us all to enhance our institutions and COVID-19 responses.

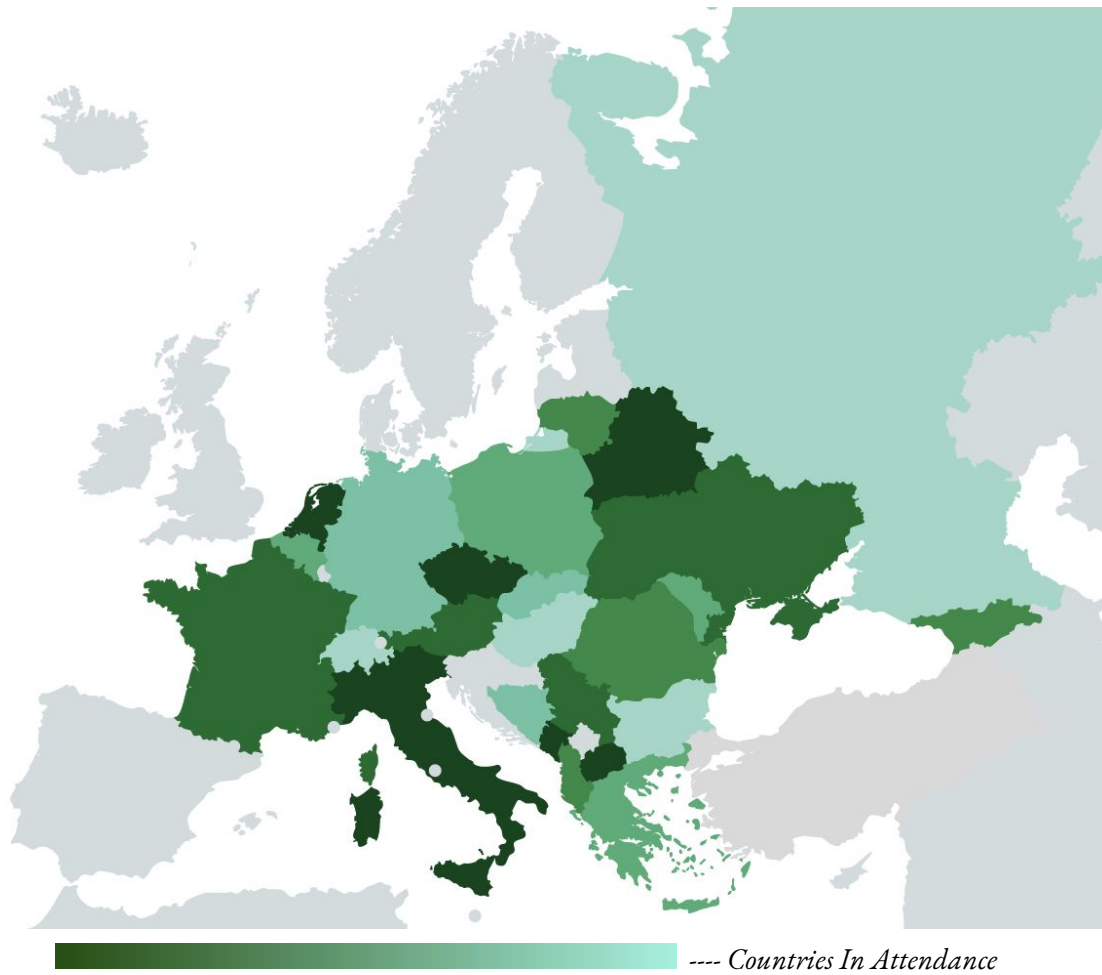
Statistical Breakdown of Participants

Total Participants Joined for part or all of the CEETTS	116
Full Length Attendees Stayed for all four panels plus our extra Belarus discussion	65

116 participants attended the event, the highest in the history of the CEETTS. Of those, 65 participants stayed for the entire three hours, including our impromptu extra session on the current political climate in Belarus while many others joined temporarily. This is significant in that it highlights the spotlight of interest shined on contemporary Belarussian democratization by parties throughout Central and Eastern Europe, not to mention the whole world, a subject that subsequently warrants increased media and academia attention and analysis. The ideas shared during the registration process and at the CEETTS will be used in this report by the TTCSP to help guide for think tanks as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in how they re-orient their research and re-open as institutions. Furthermore, our upcoming report on the landscape of Central and Eastern European think tanks will aggregate, expand on, and present the COVID-19 response policy recommendations made during the registration process of the CEETTS. The harmonization of national responses during this global pandemic is crucial to prevent the circulation of the virus and constrain its long term effects on economies, healthcare systems, think tanks, every facet of life, and most importantly, lives themselves. Between the CEETTS and the publication of this report, the case load across many CEE countries has soared, highlighting the importance of developing coordinated strategies quickly and to a high standard, as we hope to do with this report and all those forthcoming. Again, thank you so much to all 116 of you. The TTCSP appreciates your continued support, cooperation, and input.

❖ European Countries Represented: **25**

Albania	Bulgaria	Greece	Montenegro	Russia
Austria	Czechia	Hungary	Netherlands	Serbia
Belarus	France	Italy	North Macedonia	Slovakia
Belgium	Georgia	Lithuania	Poland	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	Moldova	Romania	Ukraine



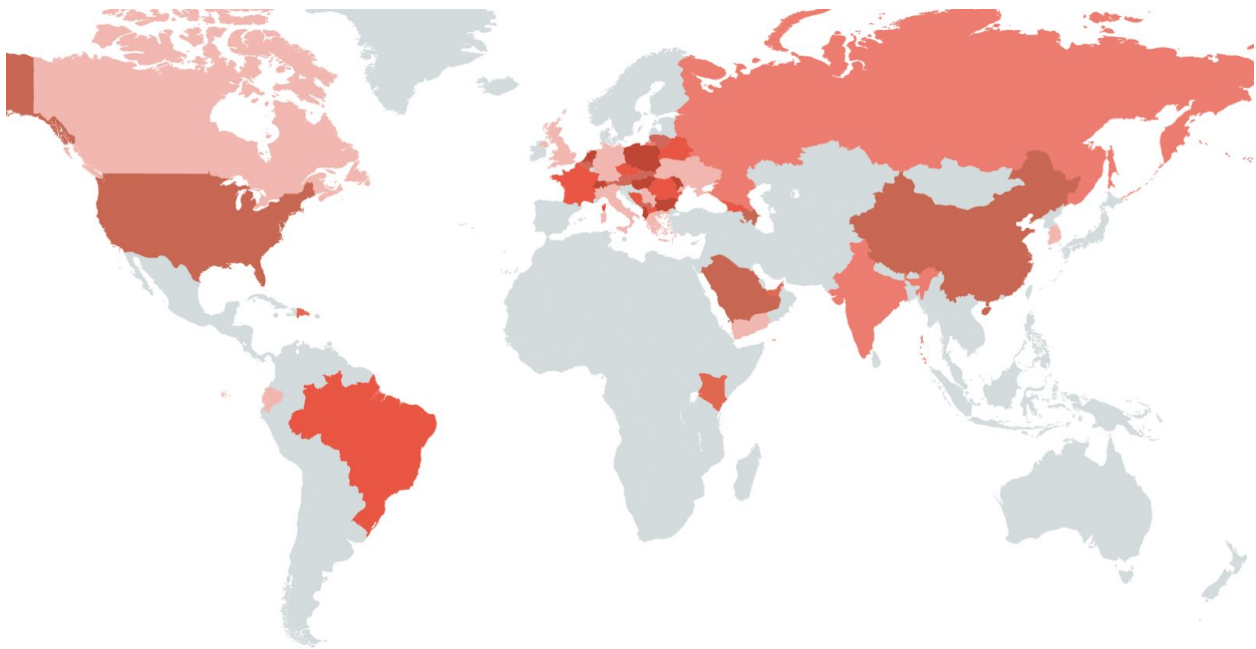
The extent of European regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe was evident and large at the 2020 Virtual CEETTS.

❖ International, non-European Countries Represented:

15

Argentina	Canada	Ecuador	Republic of Korea	United Kingdom
Azerbaijan	China	India	Saudi Arabia	United States
Brazil	Dominican Republic	Kenya	United Arab Emirates	Yemen

❖ Total Countries Represented: 40



--- Countries In Attendance

The extent of global cooperation was evident and large at the 2020 Virtual CEETTS. Cross-national and cross-regional learning is a vital and useful tool for the global think tank community to have, as the greater availability and dissemination of information will help us all consider strategies that would otherwise go unconsidered and refine implementation methods that would otherwise be less well developed.

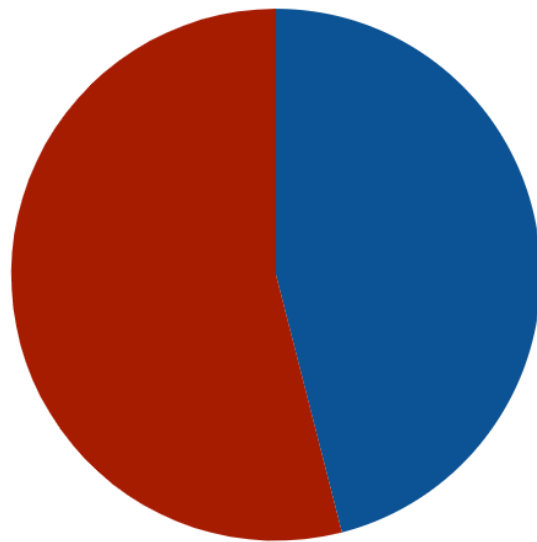
❖ Institutions Represented:

100

Alternativa (IA)	CIPPEC	Forum 2000	Kopint-Tarki Zrt.	Sejong Institute
Antall Jozsef Knowledge Centre	Cooperation & Development Institute - CDI	Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode)	Kyiv National Economic University (KNEU)	ServeUSA
Anticiparse	Currently unaffiliated (former GLOBSEC)	Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations	Lauder Institute	Stanford University
Argentinian Council for International Relations	Demokratie café Reutlingen	Georgian Institute of Politics	Legal Analysis and Research NGO	Temple University
Atlantic Council	DiXi Group	Global Leaders in Unity and Evolvment	Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI)	The Club of Economists, Public Organization
ATRIUM advisors	Dniprovskiy Center for Social Research (DCSR)	GLOBSEC Policy Institute (GPI), FKA Central European Policy Institute	LSE IDEAS	The International Renaissance Foundation (IRF)
Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe	DOC Research Institute	Green and Spiegel	Middle East Institute	The Middle East Institute
Belarusian Analytical Workroom	Dukakis Center -- American College of Thessaloniki	Institut Montaigne	Moscow State Institute of International Relations	Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program
Belgrade Centre for Security Policy	Eastern Europe Studies Centre	Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting	National Administration Association	Tilea Forum / Ratiu Forum LSE ideas
BEROC	Ecologic Institute	Institute for Market Economics (IME)	Nepal Policy Institute	University of Edinburgh
Bruegel	Economic Policy Institute	Institute for Politics and Society	NGO Come Back Alive	University of Michigan
CASE	Environment-People-Law	Institute for Strategic Initiatives	Observer Research Foundation	University of Nairobi
Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM)	EPICENTER	Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)	PMC Research Center	University of Ottawa
Center for Economic and Social Development	Equilibrium Institute	Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences (INION), Russian Academy of Sciences	Polish Economic Institute	University of Pennsylvania
Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM)	Euro Créative	International Renaissance Foundation	Political Capital	Institute of Analysis and Advocacy
Center for Strategic Research	European Institute of Romania	International Republican Institute	Prague Security Studies Institute	VoxUkraine
Centre for Economic Strategy	European Policy Centre (CEP)	ISET Policy Institute (ISET-PI)	Prefectura del Carchi	WiseEuropa Institute
Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)	European Policy Institute	ISPI	Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO)	EXponential EQ
Chanakya Chakra. President	FGV	Jagello 2000	Razumkov Centre	Yale University
CIGI	Foreign Policy Initiative BH	KAPSARC	Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)	Yemeni Institute for Strategic Affairs

❖ Gender Balance: 46%-54%

The 2020 Virtual CEETTS saw an unprecedented level of balanced gender representation. Many political institutions and communities like our own think tank community are striving to more closely represent the communities they serve, taking into account more holistic considerations of how public policy affects these communities asymmetrically because of social inequity and inequality. For the think tank community to endure COVID-19 and thrive, input on research and institutional strategies must be representative and considerate of input from a diverse range of stakeholders.



● Women ● Men

Key Takeaways

Opening + Session I. The social, economic and political impact of COVID19

Crisis on Central and Eastern Europe. A Representative Panel of Think Tank Executives from Central and Eastern Europe will discuss the short term and long-term impact of the Corona Virus on the region.

Speakers:

James McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, United States

Robert Vass, GLOBSEC, Slovakia

Alena Kudzko, GLOBSEC, Slovakia

Grzegorz Poniatowski Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE), Poland

Alexey Kuznetsov, Institute of Scientific Information and Social Sciences (INION), Russia

Milena Lazarevic, European Policy Centre, (CEP), Serbia

- ❖ The diversity of the Central and Eastern European region, in terms of geopolitical contestation, political systems, economic systems, and societal fragmentation, has led to great variance in COVID-19 responses.
- ❖ While fiscal packages of 5-10% of national GDPs have helped prevent major job loss, the regional economy is expected to contract 5% because of the decreased demand for export, meaning increased demand for domestic markets and internal trade will warrant new policy advice.
- ❖ Technology has helped many governments, think tanks, and organizations endure quarantines and lockdown, meaning research into artificial intelligence and the implementation of secure and affordable access to technology across civil society and the private sector are also useful areas for think tanks to strategize on.
- ❖ The majority of Balkan states have received fiscal assistance from the IMF, helping maintain growth in major regional sectors like agriculture and IT, suggesting that further international investment packages and even EU accession would be helpful in preventing long term economic losses.
- ❖ COVID-19 has been the ultimate stress test for all economic, political, and social systems, demonstrating the need to improve transparency, create economic safeguards against shocks, democratize bureaucracies, and improve welfare systems.

Session II. International cooperation. The Covid-19 crisis did not strengthen international cooperation networks. How to strengthen regional and global cooperation?

Speakers:

Pablo Ava, Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI), Argentina
Sebastian Schaffer, Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Austria
Alexey Yusupov, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Germany

- ❖ The three main focuses of multilateral institutions during the COVID-19 era have been on long term financial stability, setting agendas and communicating them through media visibility, and monitoring changes in cooperation and regime autocratization.
- ❖ The transnationalization of think tanks, the democratization and visibility of institutions, and the broadening of political participation to more societal groups will help policymakers strengthen cooperation and more adequately respond to the crisis.
- ❖ Civil society in the networked and globalized era can no longer be considered along lines of nationality, successful organizational strategies will understand the communities they study as transnational.
- ❖ COVID-19 has highlighted social injustices, meaning researching solutions to helping vulnerable groups, increase interdependency to hedge risks against financial shocks, and further integrating the European and global community will help us all endure.
- ❖ Policies should be created to pre-emptively defend economies, governments, and civil societies against major shocks like climate change or another pandemic by collaborating with the scientific and academic community.

Session III. Sustainability and competitiveness of CEE think tanks. How can CEE think tanks ensure their financial sustainability? How to compete with the well-established think tanks from Western Europe? What are the keys to success?

Speakers:

Daniel Bartha, Equilibrium Institute, Hungary
Aneta Vaine, Lithuanian Free Market Institute, Lithuania
Milena Besic, Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM), Montenegro
Igor Bandovic, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), Serbia

- ❖ Many challenges face CEE think tanks, from competing with better-funded Western European or EU counterparts, not having English-speaking human capital who can facilitate international cooperation, lacking domestic donors, the politicization of think tanks in the region making government and university affiliated think tanks more stable yet more biased, and the threat of brain drain.
- ❖ Advertising financial support as a way of perpetuating values rather than specific research objectives creates more long-term donor support since involvement isn't limited to the time frame of a research project.
- ❖ Networking amongst regional think tanks can help each other learn and increase transparency by adopting successful policies from each other. The most successful fundraisers are usually part of a network. International networks are a great way to further hedge regional risks and increase visibility.
- ❖ Investing in media, stakeholder, and donor communications to disseminate institutional values and research can help organizations in the long term and will likely see a return on investment.
- ❖ Engagement with governments and civil society should emphasize values of objectivity and transparency will prevent the further elitist stigmatization of think tanks.
- ❖ Extending the research process to assist in the implementation of policy and the monitoring of policy effects and government responsiveness to policy proposals will further enable think tanks to develop successful operational strategies.
- ❖ Think tanks whose research is centered in one subregion, like many of those in the Balkans, would be helped by looking to other global developmental models, both to get good input and to increase their visibility.

Closer + Session IV. Presentation of Relevant Recommendations and Action Plans to Save Lives and Livelihoods in Central and Eastern Europe.

Speakers:

Thibault Muzergues, International Republican Institute (IRI), Slovakia
Yuriy Yakymenko, Razumkov Centre, Ukraine
Florent Marciacq, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Austria
Krisela Hackaj, Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI), Albania
James McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, United States
Dmitri Trenin, Carnegie Moscow Center

- ❖ Not all the consequences of the crisis are fully known, as the crisis is still going on, so looking to regions of the world who have handled the COVID-19 response comparatively better thus far is a wise learning tool.
- ❖ Think tanks must be mindful of media communications and public relations in an era also characterized by rising populism, skepticism, and fake news.

- ❖ EU partnerships that think tanks can help facilitate will save lives by making the spread of information, pharmacological partnerships, vaccine trials, and fake news critiques faster and more transparent.
- ❖ Think tanks should re-orient their research efforts to address the COVID-19 crisis: accumulating and systematizing information on different countries' responses, suggesting precautionary measures, forecasting externalities of the pandemic.
- ❖ Addressing the social issues that the crisis has caused are as necessary to healing the economy as curing the virus: issues of labor, migration, technological access, human rights, welfare policy, and unemployment.
- ❖ European solidarity and policy harmonization are consistent strategies that experts predict can help solve many issues relating to the think tank community.
- ❖ On top of improving transparency and dissemination of information and values, think tanks should promote examples of their own successful problem solving to increase their validity and civil society relevancy.

A special thank you to those who participated on our planning committee

Association for International Affairs (AMO)	International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS)
Atlantic Council	International Republican Institute (IRI)
Austrian Institute for European and Security Studies	Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)
The Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (CFA/ÖFZ)	National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
Brookings Institution	Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)
Carnegie Moscow	PRAXIS Center for Policy Studies
Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE)	Pulaski Foundation/European Academy of Diplomacy
Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)	Razumkov Centre
Eastern European Studies Centre (EESC)	Res Publica
European Policy Centre CEP	Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA)
EUROPEUM	TechSoup
Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES)	Vsquare
Fundacja Odpowiedzalna Polityka	Wise Europa
Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe	

A special thank you to individuals who spoke on one of our panels

Session I



Alena Kudzko, GLOBSEC, Slovakia

Alena Kudzko is the Director of the GLOBSEC Policy Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia, where she supervises research and policy development in areas of defense and security, technology and society, and global order.

Prior to joining GLOBSEC, she worked with NGOs and academic institutions in Belarus, Estonia, and Hungary, focusing on foreign relations, democratization, and community development. Furthermore, she carried out research and project work with civil society organizations in order to implement liberal democratic norms and advocate for human rights. Currently, her research involves the study of European and transatlantic relations, including security institution reform and migration. As a member of the GLOBSEC team, she contributes to formulating the vision, crafting the agenda, conducting research, and organizing the annual GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum, the GLOBSEC Tatra Summit, and the GLOBSEC Chateau Bela Conference. Alena Kudzko graduated with honors as the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award winner from the Central European University with a Master's degree in International Relations and European Studies.

Grzegorz Poniatowski, Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE), Poland

Dr. Grzegorz Poniatowski is the Director of Fiscal Policy Studies at the Center for Social and Economic Research (CARES) in Warsaw, Poland. He also currently serves as the Vice President of CARES.

Throughout his career at CARES, Dr. Poniatowski contributed to more than 40 research projects for Poland's government, international, and EU institutions. Concurrently to his role in CARES, he is also leading a study of the VAT gap in EU-28 Member States. Dr. Poniatowski has also spent extensive time researching the measure of individual tax evasion and evaluating EU invoicing rules. His interests are primarily oriented towards macroeconomic policy, fiscal policy and taxation. Prior to his position at CARES, Dr. Poniatowski was an assistant professor at the Warsaw School of Economics, where he also received his PhD, MA, and BA in Quantitative Economics. He also completed his MA in Economics from both the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.



Alexey Kuznetsov, Institute of Scientific Information and Social Sciences (INION), Russia

Dr. Alexey Kuznetsov is the Director of the Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences (INION RAS), an organization dedicated to fundamental, exploratory, and applied research in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities, Computer Science, Library Science and Bibliography and famous for its Fundamental research library and numerous publications which include monographs and analytical reports, abstract collections, bibliographies, scientific journals, and bulletins. A Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and a former Head of Section for EU Studies, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences; former Head of the Center for European Studies, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences and a Deputy Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences until 2019. Aside from that, Dr. Kuznetsov has been awarded honorary Diploma of the Russian Federation President for Scientific Merits and has published more than 290 pieces, including several monographs, more than 50 articles and chapters in books in English, and some articles and books translated into Chinese, Korean and Japanese.



Milena Lazarevic, European Policy Centre (CEP), Serbia

Milena Lazarević is one of the founders and Programme Director at the European Policy Centre (CEP). She is in charge of CEP's strategy as well as the development and management of the quality assurance system and processes in CEP. She also leads numerous good governance related projects implemented by CEP.

Milena is an expert in public administration reform in Serbia and in the Western Balkan region. Between May 2014 and March 2015 she acted as the Special Adviser to the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister in charge of public administration reform. As a consultant, she has worked for SIGMA/OECD, Regional School for Public Administration (ReSPA), the World Bank and several other major international consultancy firms. She worked for almost six years as a civil servant in the Serbian administration, dealing with public administration reform and administrative capacities for EU accession, first in the EU Integration Office of the Serbian Government (SEIO) and later in the Ministry of Public Administration. As a Soros scholar, Milena obtained her BA degree in European Studies and International Relations magna cum laude at the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG), after which she completed with honors an advanced MA programme in European studies at the College of Europe, on a King Baudouin Foundation scholarship. She later graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia with an MA in European Administrative Law at Belgrade University. She speaks English, French, Italian and Bulgarian.



Session II



Pablo Ava, Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI), Argentina

Pablo Ava is a specialist in public affairs. He obtained his Master's Degree in Law and Economics at the University of Buenos Aires where he is currently employed as a professor. A member of various public institutions, international bodies, companies, and civil society organizations. One of them is the Argentine Council of Foreign Relations which is a nonprofit academic institution assessing the political, economic, cultural, and social dimensions of international relations and ways in which they might influence Argentina.

Pablo Ava was the co-chair of Policy & Research for T20 Argentina. He also co-authored the "Economic Effects of Infrastructure Investment from the Land-based Financing" policy brief being a recommendation for the G20 policy makers.

Alexey Yusupov, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Germany

Alexey Yusupov is a head of office for Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Turkey at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), a German political foundation that promotes democracy and political education. He previously served as a country director at diverse postings in Asia which included Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. As a freelance consultant, he supports international actors in their organizational development and political communication. Yusupov also serves on the board of Tönissteiner Kreis e.V., a forum for dialogue and projects to address society's challenges, driven by pro-bono and non-profit work from a network of leaders in business, academia and politics with a strong international background. He studied political science, ethnology and European history of art at the University of Heidelberg.



Sebastian Schaffer, Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Austria

Sebastian Schaffer is the Managing Director of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM). A German national, he received his Master's in Political Science, European Law, and Slavonic Studies at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and his Honor's Master's degree in East European studies from the University of Regensburg. An expert in EU policy, EU-Russia relations, Eastern partnership, Western Balkan political development, and electoral systems, he has been a research fellow and lecturer at universities across Germany and published various papers in his areas of expertise. He also served as Secretary General of the Danube Rectors' Conference, a member of the Munich European Forum, and on the Advisory Board of Discussing World Politics.

Session III



Daniel Bartha, Equilibrium Institute, Hungary

Dr. Dániel Bartha is the Director of the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEAID), a Budapest non-profit and non-partisan Think Tank, for the past 6 years. Prior to this, Dr. Bartha served as the Head of the GLOBSEC Central Europe Program between 2014 and 2015, following his position as the Executive Director between 2012 and 2014. Before his time at GLOBSEC, he was the Vice President for Strategy at the Center for Democracy Public Foundation. After this, He acted as the Director for Development and the Programme Manager at the International Center for Democratic Transition for 6 years. Dr. Bartha received his PhD from the University of Pecs and earned his Masters on International Relations from the Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary. In addition to his leading work at the CEAID, Dr. Bartha frequently holds lectures on Central European foreign and security policy.

Igor Bandovic, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), Serbia

Igor Bandović is the director of the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy. He studied international law and international relations at the University of Belgrade and University Union, Belgrade, Serbia. Igor's engagement in civil society started in 1997, when he established "Libergraf", a nongovernmental organization that has dealt with education, human rights promotion and civic activism. From 2002 to 2006, he worked at the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights where his research was concerned with human rights education, international criminal law and the reconciliation. Prior to joining BCSP, he worked as a Senior Programme Manager for the European Fund for the Balkans where he was responsible for policy research and advocacy initiatives, such as the coordination of the "Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group". Furthermore, from 2006 to 2008, he worked for the International Organisation for Migration and United Nations Development Programme. From 2009 to 2011, he managed the "Gallup Balkan Monitor", a regional public opinion survey which was conducted through partnership with Gallup Europe. His recent publications include the research report: "North Macedonia-What's Next?" and research papers "Balkan Strongmen and Fragile Institutions", "European Question is Serbia's Party Politics", "The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Influencing the Policy-Making Process in the Western Balkans – Perspectives and Obstacles".



Aneta Vaine, Lithuanian Free Market Institute, Lithuania

Aneta Vaine is a Vice-President of the Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI) where she also holds the position of Director of Development and Programs. Her work focuses on strategic development and management of LFMI's programs, foundation relations, and international outreach. Aneta Vaine is an author of a plethora of national as well as international educational projects. Her work in the field played a vital role in LFMI's winning Templeton Freedom Awards in 2014 and 2016. Between 2009 and 2013 she was a Head of International Relations and Project Management at the International School of Law and Business in Vilnius where she conducted strategic and internal quality management projects and developed joint degree programs with foreign universities. Aneta Vaine obtained her Master's degrees in Economics and English from Vilnius University and a certificate in European studies from Surrey University.



Milena Besic, Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM), Montenegro

Milena Bešić is the director of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM). She studied Business and Management at the Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro. As an economist with 20 years of experience, she has worked within CSOs, international organizations and media institutes such as: the Montenegrin Media Institute, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia, and the Institute Alternative. Currently, she is a part of the Sectoral Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. In addition, she is a member of the Commission on the monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan for achieving gender equality in Montenegro at the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights. She is also a member of the Advisory group of the ReLOaD Project in the WB (UNDP). Her recent publications include "Ethnical distance and minority rights" and "Ethnical distance in Montenegro."



Session IV



Thibault Muzergues, International Republican Institute (IRI), Slovakia

Thibault Muzergues, a graduate of London School of Economics as well as Sciences-Po Paris, has been involved with the International Republican Institute's Europe Regional Office since 2011, currently working based in Vienna as its Europe Program Director. Prior to his arrival at IRI, Thibault worked for 6 years as a Fundraiser and political communication consultant for Mobilisation Direct, a French company aiding French centre-right parties, organisations and candidates in the fundraising processes. Here, he introduced new online fundraising techniques and pioneered the idea of Tele-Town Halls, mostly inspired from the American marketing experience. He specializes in political parties and International politics, being an expert with more than 20 years of experience, regularly contributing to such publications as *Le Monde*, *Atlantico*, *Open Democracy* and *Emerging Europe*. Thibault is also an author of "*La Quadrature des Classes*", a book in which he explores the current shape of the West political landscape.

Florent Marciacq, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Austria

Dr. Florent Marciacq is Programme Director and Deputy Secretary General of the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (CFA), an organization dedicated to promoting European integration in the Western Balkans and CEE region. An associate researcher with the European Governance Research Group at the University of Luxembourg, a steering committee member of Western Balkans Reflection Forum, former research associate at the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, researcher-in-residence for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), research advisor to the Felix Kreissler Research Department of the Vienna Diplomatic Academy, and guest researcher at the Austrian Defence Academy, Dr. Marciacq has an extensive knowledge of Europeanization, European security, and research organizations in the CEE region. He holds his PhD jointly from the Universities of Luxembourg and Vienna.



Yuriy Yakymenko, Razumkov Centre, Ukraine

Dr. Yuriy Yakymenko is President of the Razumkov Centre, a think tank dedicated to building a democratic, ruled by law, socially-oriented European state in Ukraine. Through experience in state service as a Chief Consultant and Deputy Head of the Main Department of Domestic Policy of the Administration of the President of Ukraine and Deputy Head of the Department for Analysis and Prognosis of Home Policy of the Administration of the President of Ukraine, Yakymenko was able to bring insight into Political and Legal Programmes at Razumkov Centre for 18 years as expert, Director, and then Deputy Director General. He is an author of 40 research papers and more than 200 media publications.



Krisela Hackaj, Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI), Albania

Krisela Hackaj is the Director of the Cooperation and Development Institute, a non-profit organization located in Albania, focusing on improving the quality of evidence-based public policy-making through outreach work and open debate. An expert in governance, EU Enlargement processes, as well as socio-economics and political issues in the Western Balkans Six (WB6). A member of the Regional Research Team of the project "Connectivity 2020 Monitoring Regional Initiative for the Western Balkans" guided by Friedrich Ebert Foundation in the context of the 'Berlin Process'. A graduate from Bocconi University in 'Public Administration and International Organizations', holding a Master of Science from University of Parma in 'International Career and in International and European Institutions'.



Opening / Closing Remarks

Robert Vass, GLOBSEC, Slovakia

Robert Vass is the founder of GLOBSEC, a non partisan NGO based in Bratislava, Slovakia. At the start of his professional career in 2002, Vass was the President of the Euro-Atlantic Center, similarly an NGO. In 2005, he founded the annual GLOBSEC Bratislava Global Security Forum. He was elected the Chairman of the Slovak Atlantic Commission in 2006 and in 2008 he became the Secretary General. In addition, Vass organized the NATO Defense Ministers Meeting conference and established the Euro-Atlantic Quarterly, a magazine on foreign policy and international security. In 2016, the various organizations that comprised the Central European Strategy Council became GLOBSEC and Vass assumed the role of President.



Dmitri Trenin, Carnegie Moscow Center, Russia

Dr. Trenin is the Director of the Carnegie Moscow Centre, a think tank mostly dedicated to in-depth analysis and insight on Russian and Post-Soviet affairs, with a focus on foreign policy, security strategy, domestic politics, economics and societal trends. He has been with the center since its inception in 1994 and he has been his director for the last 12 years. He also chairs the Research Council and the Foreign and Security Policy Program. Dr. Trenin, after graduating from the Military Institute of the Ministry of Defense of the USSR, served the Soviet and Russian Armed Forces from 1973 to 1993. During his military service he worked as a liaison officer in the external relations branch of the Group of Soviet Forces (stationed in Potsdam) and participated in the US-Soviet nuclear arms talks in Geneva from 1985 to 1991. He obtained a PhD in History from the Institute of US and Canada Studies in 1987. Dr. Trenin retired in 1993 as Colonel of the Russian Army. From 1993 he held the post of Senior research fellow at the NATO Defense College (Rome). From 1993-1997 he was also a senior research fellow at the Institute of Europe in Moscow. Dr.

Trenin is also a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (London), The Russian International Affairs Council (Moscow), the Russian International Studies Association (Moscow) and the Royal Swedish Academy of Military Science (Stockholm).



James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law.



Link to Event Recording
<https://youtu.be/mQraeAw3tQo>

This may be used for reference and to gather further conclusions from the event.

About the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program:

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations.

Since its formation, TTCSP has laid the foundation for a global initiative that will help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health. This international collaborative effort is designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy making as well as strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. TTCSP at the Lauder Institute works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs.

About the Lauder Institute

Founded by brothers Leonard and Ronald Lauder in 1983 in honor of their father, Joseph, the Joseph H. Lauder Institute for Management and International Studies provides a fully integrated business education to a new generation of leaders coming of age in a rapidly globalizing world.

About the University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. As a world-class research institution, Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York. Penn was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world.

About the Director

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and law.

His main research priorities include: analyzing global developments in research on safety and international affairs; influencing United States’ foreign and domestic policies through think tanks;

strategic advice to BRICS and G20 countries from think tanks and transnational and regional public policy challenges. He is the creator and author of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index which ranks think tanks in every region of the world.

Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank; the United Nations; the United States Agency for International Development; the Soros, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Hewlett and Gates foundations; the Carnegie Corporation; and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in the US and developing and transitional countries. He has also served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the Public Policy Program Officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has also served as a Senior Advisor to the Citizens' Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.

“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”

The mission of TTCSP is to increase the profile, capacity and performance of think tanks at the national, regional and global levels so they can better serve policymakers and the public. The TTCSP conducts research on the relationship between think tanks, politics and public policy, produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index, develops capacity-building resources and programs, manages and supports a global network of over 8,000 think tanks and trains future think tank scholars and executives. TTCSP is often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank.”

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