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## **Understanding the relations between the European Union and the Post-Soviet Countries - Drama or Prosperity?**

**Online workshop jointly organized by**

**the University of Szeged Faculty of Law and Political Sciences International and Regional Studies Institute – Europe Direct Szeged – European Public Law Organization**

**18 November 2021**

**14.00-16.30 o'clock**

The European Union has been developing the European Neighbourhood Policy and its tools for those countries which are enthusiastic about establishing and sustaining good relations with the EU. The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is one arm of the ENP focusing on the Post-Soviet countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

Bilateral and multilateral political and economic relations have been established between the EU and the EaP partners which differ in terms of internal and EU-related conditions in sustaining this relation. However, as the progress reports point out several times, historical, political, cultural, and yet economic cleavages effectively prevent the EaP partners to improve not only the country's democracy indicators but also putting blocks on establishing better communication with the EU. Furthermore, the Post-Soviet countries' sensitivity towards the external events and to actors prevent the EaP from being successfully implemented.

This workshop focuses on the relations between the EU and the Post-Soviet countries within the frame of the EaP, and from the law, politics, economy, culture, geography, and trade points of view. At this Workshop, we will look for answers to the questions related to the opportunities for Post-Soviet countries, either alone or jointly, to develop their relations with the EU regarding democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

The workshop is available via the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84309654581?pwd=VUNCMmhpR0I1c2Vub3RUSIFrTm1QUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 0965 4581

Passcode: 321397

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**PROGRAM**

14.00-14.10	<b>Welcome Speech</b> Dr. Gizem Gültekin-Várkonyi, Senior Lecturer, University of Szeged, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, International and Regional Studies Institute
14.10-14.30	<b>EU accession prospects and challenges for South-East European states: Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova</b> Ioseb Nanobashvili, Former Ambassador of Georgia to the Hellenic Republic and to the Republic of Serbia, Director of the EPLO Regional Branch for the South Caucasus
14.30-14.50	<b>Reforms and Resilience: Transforming Ukraine and the Eastern Neighbourhood</b> Máté Csicsai, Policy Assistant to the Deputy Director-General in charge of the Eastern Neighbourhood, European Commission
14.50-15.10	<b>Relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union</b> Zoltán Egeresi, Researcher at the National University of Public Service, Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies
15.10-15.30	<b>Gain, Responsibility, Gained Responsibility? The EU and the Post-Soviet Secessionist Entities</b> Bernadett Szőke-Kis, Ph.D candidate, University of Szeged, Doctoral School of Law
15.30-16.30	Roundtable and Q&A
16.30	<b>Conclusions</b> Dr. Gizem Gültekin-Várkonyi



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