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## UPTAKE workshop

# Ethnopolitics in Central and Eastern Europe in a State of Flux

9-10 February 2018, University of Tartu (Estonia)

### Call for Papers

After the end of the Cold War, ethnic relations in Central and Eastern Europe have been subject to a quadratic nexus which consists of ethnic minorities, their external homelands (or kin-states), the (frequently) nationalizing new homelands, and the European Union as both a regulatory and normative power. Since the 2000s, this nexus has undergone several readjustments.

The current state-of-play might be dubbed the phase of crises. The economic and the refugee crises, as well as the wave of Euroscepticism across the EU, have exerted a strong impact on the state of ethnic relations in Central and Eastern Europe. The EU quota arrangement for refugees has been met with opposition by various governments in the region (e.g. the 'Visegrad Four'), whereas the arrival of new migrants is likely to reshape ethnic relations on the everyday level of social interaction. Immigration-related concerns have inflated support for populist and extremist parties which have integrated opposition to minority rights and immigration into a broader frame of Eurosceptic agendas (e.g. in the Baltic states, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Croatia). Meanwhile, Russia has redoubled its efforts to win over the hearts and minds of 'compatriots' abroad, while EU members with substantial Russian-speaking minorities (above all, Estonia and Latvia) struggle to overcome deep political and societal divisions.

This thematic workshop will focus on patterns, trends and transformations characterizing ethnic relations, ethnopolitics and conflict resolution in contemporary Central and Eastern Europe. The workshop has a cross-regional focus and aspires to attract a wide range of area experts with a specialization in Southeast Europe, the 'Visegrad Four', Baltic states, Ukraine and other parts of the post-Soviet space. The keynote speaker is **Dr Roland Kostić** (Uppsala University). His research areas are conflict resolution in intra-state armed conflicts (with a focus on ethnic conflicts in Southeast Europe), post-war peace building, reconciliation, transitional justice, and diaspora and peace.

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- take stock of the state of ethnic relations across Central and Eastern Europe, with due attention to cross-national differences and regional specifics;
- facilitate cross- and interdisciplinary exchange;
- allow participants to embed their research more solidly into the wider regional and European contexts;
- establish a network of cooperation among academic and non-academic experts.

We invite experts to contribute to this debate by submitting conceptual and empirical papers, case-studies as well as comparative works, in the following areas:

- institutional and legal developments in the management of ethnic relations and minority rights: European, regional and national dimensions;
- the spectrum of ethnic relations and conflict resolution in Central and Eastern Europe: political and security implications;
- ethnopolitics in Central and Eastern Europe: historical and sociocultural specificities.

Please submit your abstracts (max 300 words) along with a brief CV to Vassilis Petsinis ([vasileios.petsinis@ut.ee](mailto:vasileios.petsinis@ut.ee)) by **October 20, 2017**. Decisions on submitted abstracts will be communicated by **November 5, 2017**. Successful candidates should submit their full papers 10 days before the workshop.

The convener, **Vassilis Petsinis** (PhD Birmingham), is a Marie Curie Experienced Researcher at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu. His expertise is European Politics and Ethnopolitics (nationalism, ethnic relations, and the populist & radical right) with a regional specialization in Central and Eastern Europe, including the Baltic States.

The organisers will cover all costs of participation for members of the UPTAKE consortium and meals and refreshments for all workshop participants. Non-UPTAKE participants will have to cover their own accommodation and travel-related costs. Registration for the workshop is free. Selected contributions will be published in a special issue of *Ethnopolitics* (Routledge).

The workshop is organized within the framework of the UPTAKE consortium which is a cooperative project between the Centre for EU-Russia Studies at the University of Tartu, the Global Europe Centre at the University of Kent, and the Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Uppsala University. It is financially supported by the European Commission under a Horizon 2020 twinning project entitled 'Building Research Excellence in Russian and East European Studies at the Universities of Tartu, Uppsala and Kent' (UPTAKE) under grant agreement No 691818.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the convener at: [vasileios.petsinis@ut.ee](mailto:vasileios.petsinis@ut.ee)