



The Title of the Workshop:

Are Minority Rights Majority Interests?

Minority Quest in the Balkans and Eastern Europe in the Light of the European Integration

13-14 March 2014

Information on the CEI Workshop

Venue: Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

Description, main objectives

The *Antall József Knowledge Centre* is organising a *workshop* for eminent university students of the CEI Member States and Western European countries. Inviting young scholars from the social and political sciences departments of European universities is clearly in line with the objectives of *our institution*.

The **17 participants** will discuss the question of minorities in the form of *coordinated debates* that will consist of two topics: the Balkans and Eastern Europe in the Light of the European Integration. Experts, who will open the discussion with a roundtable and will moderate all workshops, and young scholars will be invited from EU-CEI countries (**Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary**), as well as from non-EU CEI member states (**Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine**). Furthermore, we also seek to invite **Italian, Catalan, Scottish** and **Welsh** experts to broaden the Central European point of view and to exchange *good practices*. The workshops will be held **in English**. The fact that young scholars with different EU and CEI statuses will be able to exchange their experiences is in accordance with the CEI Plan of Action. The workshops will revolve around two main topics related to two regions:



1. **Minority-issues in the Balkans**, with special attention to *ethnic pluralism and the challenge of human rights*. Questions to be discussed are the possibilities for autonomy along with those concerning the rights of people belonging to the least advantaged minorities. *Diversity management* is a key term from the point of view of the *European integration of the Balkans*.
2. **Minority rights questions regarding the Eastern European region's European integration** concentrating on Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. In these countries, the situation of minority and language rights raises many concerns. The fact that democratic representation of diverse nationalities is often criticised by Western European politicians and institutions thwarts the integration process of the region.

After the debates students will **summarize** their ideas in an *Action Plan* to provide the CEI with innovative suggestions for regional development and to enable the students to bring back profitable knowledge to their home countries. The Action Plans will be published on our website and in print, too. We are also aiming at taking the participants to a tolerance tour in Budapest.

Participants: Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia, Poland, Albania, Slovakia, Macedonia, Romania, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria

Moderators: minority experts from Spain (Catalonia), United Kingdom (Wales, Scotland), Italy

Planned Schedule

Thursday: 03.13.

- 10:00-12:00: Round-table Conversation with the Participation of the Experts
 - Topic: European integration and minority conflicts, role of the CEI
- 12:00-13:00: Reception
- 13:00-14:30: Workshop I. European Integration and Minorities in the Balkan
- 14:30-15:00: Coffee, Refreshments
- 15:00-16:30: Workshop II. European Integration and Minorities in Eastern Europe
- Free-time Activity



Friday: 03.14.

- 09:30-11:00: Workshop III. European integration and Identity: European or Regional Identities vs. (?) National Identity in the Balkans
- 11:00-11:15: Coffee, Refreshments
- 11:15-12:45: Workshop IV. European Integration and Identity: European or Regional Identities vs. (?) National Identity in Eastern Europe
- 12:45-14:00: Lunch
- 14:00-15:30: Conclusions, Elaboration of the Action Plans
- Free-time Activity

The purpose of the workshop

- Elaboration of Action Plans
- Establishment of Intercultural Dialogue

Application: Ma or PhD students (1) CV and (2) proof of English knowledge

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Participants need to take care of their insurance.

Costs Covered by the Knowledge Centre:

- Travel Costs (Please note that in return for an invoice, the costs of travel will be reimbursed by the Knowledge Centre).
- Accommodation for 2 Nights
- Organized Free Programs
- Meals during the Event

Thank you very much for considering our request.
We look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

The Organisers