



‘Geopolitical Processes and Its Possible Effects’ Geopolitical and International Relations Conference

Dezső SZENKOVICS

Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca
Department of International Relations and European Studies
e-mail: szenkovics@kv.sapientia.ro

The interinstitutional relations between Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania (SHUT) and the University of Pécs are old and very close, but the above mentioned conference was the first one organized by the two institutions in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár. The third organizing partner was the Pallas Athéné Domus Concordiae Foundation of the Central Bank of Hungary (Magyar Nemzeti Bank – MNB).

During the two-day conference organized in the period of 30 June–1 July 2017, more than 40 papers were presented in the plenary session and the following four panels. The conference took place in the main building of the Faculty of Cluj/Kolozsvár of Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania.

The conference started with a plenary session with three lectures. The first one was given by Mr Norbert Csizmadia, President of Pallas Athéné Geopolitical Foundation, who presented the possibilities and the role of Hungary in the new global geopolitical trends. The second lecture was presented by Mr Márton Tonk, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Cluj/Kolozsvár of SHUT, who dealt with the current challenges of the Hungarian higher education system in Transylvania, with a special focus on demographic trends and educational policies. The last lecture of the plenary session was presented by Mr Zoltán Dövényi, PhD, Head of the Doctoral School of Earth Sciences of the University of Pécs, who was focusing on the migration processes Hungary is confronting nowadays.

The first thematic panel, entitled *Geopolitical Dimensions*, included 11 presentations with a special focus on several aspects of the geopolitical processes, such as the American geopolitical thinking in the 21st century, Cuba’s geopolitical environment, geopolitics and economic processes, etc.

The second thematic session, entitled *Economical Processes and Their Effects*, also had 11 presentations grouped around topics such as geographic and

economic regions in Europe, the past and the present of the Hungarian bank sector, the potential impacts of the multi-speed EU concerning the main policies of the European Union, and several other economic aspects.

One of the most compact panels was the third one, entitled *International Relations and Power Relations*. All the 11 presentations of this session were dealing mostly with the geopolitical role and position of a state or a region/integration. The presenters tackled topics such as the Hungarian–Vietnamese relations, the development of the Silk Road railway built between China and Europe, the question of unity and diversity of the geopolitical positions in Central and Eastern Europe, the development of the relationship between Mexico and the United States of America, the geopolitical challenges and possibilities India is facing at the beginning of the 21st century, the challenges of the Japanese economics in the light of demographic tendencies, or the economic outcomes and external relations of the Eurasian Economic Union.

The last panel, entitled *Focus on Eastern and Central Europe*, included 10 presentations with a special focus on topics such as the geopolitics of Romania, innovation and creativity in the V4-countries, the possible geo-economic effects of the New Silk Road on the Central and Eastern European countries such as Hungary, or the impact and effects of dual citizenship given by the Hungarian state on the identification process with the political community and on the willingness to emigrate from Romania, etc.

The conference was a good occasion for the researchers, professors, and students (PhD and MA) to meet each other, to establish new professional relations, and to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two universities. At the same time, this event was an excellent opportunity for the participants to get acquainted with the research topics of the other university. All in all, the conference is considered to be a great success, and so the representatives of the two universities agreed that similar events would be held in the future too.