

Workshop
Economic connectivity in European conflict regions
1 July 2016, Vienna

Venue:

Oesterreichische Kontrollbank (OeKB) – Reitersaal
Strauchgasse 3, 1010 Vienna

The *Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)* in association with the *Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BMEIA)*, and the *Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (EDA)* jointly invite to this academic workshop.

Outline

The objective of this workshop is to explore the concept of ‘economic connectivity’ in the context of a number of conflict areas in Europe, particularly those in the EU and Russian neighbourhood. The workshop will discuss the various channels through which connectivity can be established, explore the successes of different measures in various contexts, their role in reducing the social costs of conflict and in stabilising economic conditions. The role that OSCE can play within its mandate will be at the centre of the discussion.

These conflict zones will cover:

- (i) Ukraine-Donbass
- (ii) Armenia-Azerbaijan
- (iii) Moldova-Transnistria
- (iv) Georgia-Abkhazia; Georgia-South Ossetia

Economic connectivity in such conflict zones will encompass any economic relationships that develop in such conflict regions cross-border involving civil society but also official channels at the micro-regional but also in the broader regional context.

The following forms of economic relationships (of the informal and formal type) will be explored:

- (i) Trade in goods and services including trade policy arrangements such as relationships to wider regional trade policy groupings (such as to the EAEU and the EU); cross-border payments solutions; SEZs
- (ii) Cross-border infrastructure: utility provision (water, electricity); transport (road, rail)
- (iii) Transit: of goods, energy
- (iv) Access to social infrastructure (hospitals, education, pensions); employment policies; mobility; policies directed at youth
- (v) Cooperation in terms of public administration

Lessons will also be drawn in this workshop from the exploration how these areas were dealt with in other regional and conflict contexts, in particularly in the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Agenda

- 09.00-09.30** **Welcome and Introduction**
- 09.30-11.00** **Keynote lecture and introductory session**
- A regional view on the conflict zones in the neighbourhood of the EU and Russia and experiences regarding economic connectivity*
- Thomas de Waal**, Senior Associate, Carnegie Europe, Brussels - **keynote**
- Natalia Mirimanova**, Senior Advisor, International Alert, United Kingdom
- Vladimir Gligorov**, Senior Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw), Austria; on “*Lessons from the Balkans*”
- Chair: Michael Landesmann**, Scientific Director, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)
- 11.00-11.30** **Coffee break**
- 11.30-13.00** **Session 1: Ukraine-Donbass**
- Martin Sajdik**, Special OSCE Representative, Ukraine
- Hrant Kostanyan**, Researcher, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium
- Per Fischer**, Coordinator of the Working Group on Economy of the Trilateral Contact Group, OSCE
- Ihor Lossovskiy**, Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna
- Chair: Heinz Gärtner**, Director, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip)
- 13.00-14.00** **Lunch**
- 14.00-15.00** **Session 2: Armenia-Azerbaijan**
- Vugar Bayramov**, Chairman, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Azerbaijan
- Alexander Iskandaryan**, Director, Caucasus Institute, Armenia
- Güven Sak**, Managing Director, The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (tepav)
- Chair: Thomas de Waal**, Senior Associate, Carnegie Europe, Brussels
- 15:00-16:00** **Session 3: Moldova-Transnistria**
- Joerg Radeke**, Consultant, Berlin Economics
- Denis Cenusa**, Associate Expert, Expert-Grup, Moldova
- Stanislav Secrieru**, Senior Research Fellow, The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)
- Chair: Peter Havlik**, Senior Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw), Austria

- 16.00-16.30** **Coffee break**
- 16:30-17:30** **Session 4: Georgia-Abkhazia; Georgia-South Ossetia**
- Kakha Gogolashvili***, Director of EU Studies, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, Georgia
- Maria van Ruiten***, Peace and Development Specialist, UNDP Georgia
- Sergey Rastoltsev***, Research Fellow, Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO); Moscow
- Chair: *Natalia Mirimanova***, Senior Advisor, International Alert, United Kingdom
- 17:30-18:30** **Debriefing & Concluding Remarks**
- Hannes Swoboda***, wiiw President, former Member of European Parliament
- 19:00** **Dinner at Restaurant Corbacci** (Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna)

supported by

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