

*Effects of Conditionality and Post-Conditionality on the Quality of
Democracy in EU Member States and Beyond*

November 8 (Tuesday), 2016
9.00am – 2.00pm
Popper Room, Central European University

9.00 Registration

9.30 Keynote Address

MICHAEL ROTH, Minister of State for Europe, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

10.15 Panel I. – Evaluating pre-accession conditionality: Path-dependency, effectiveness and the importance of context

The discussion seeks to identify those aspects of conditionality that are considered to be the most problematic and challenging from the (current and past) candidates' perspective. Looking back with the experience of current member states in mind, it attempts to evaluate the shortcomings of accession conditionality. Building on a comparative approach, the discussion will draw lessons from past and current experiences with conditionality and its effects both on national democratic developments and the EU integration process itself.

Speakers:

Natasa Besirevic, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Vladimir Petrovic, Department of History, CEU, Hungary/Serbia

Georgi Dimitrov, University of Sofia, Bulgaria: *The Academic Controversies over the EU accession conditionalities*

Hana Semanic, Center for European Neighborhood Studies, CEU, Hungary/Bosnia and Herzegovina:

11.45 Coffee Break

12.15 Panel II. – Effects of (the lack of) post-accession conditionality on the quality of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe

The discussion will address the impact of weak or non-existent post-accession conditionality especially in Visegrad countries, Romania and Bulgaria. The main focus will be on analyzing and evaluating political and democratic developments – progress and regress – after these countries' EU accession in the light of significantly reduced EU requirements when compared to the pre-accession period.

Speakers:

Antoaneta Dimitrova, Leiden University, the Netherlands: *The Vicious Circle of credibility and public opinion: Why conditionality does not always work?*

Luciana Ghica, University of Bucharest, Romania: *Discourses on Democracy and Conditionality in Foreign Policy-Making: Official Development Aid Commitments of Central and East European states within EU and UN in comparative perspective*

Bálint Magyar, Hungary: *Corruption and partial state capture*

Zsuzsanna Végh, Bogdan Radu, Center for European Neighborhood Studies, CEU, Hungary/Romania: *Embedding democratic values: Lessons learned*

13.45 Concluding remarks

Péter Balázs, Center for European Neighborhood Studies, CEU, Hungary

14.00 Buffet Lunch