

Academic Charter of the Center for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS)

CENS was established in order to complement CEU's education activities by bringing the world of policy closer to students through lectures, workshops and conferences about EU-related matters, as well as to facilitate intellectual collaboration between EU member and candidate states and to provide multidisciplinary academic research on various political, economic and social aspects of EU enlargement— both past, present and future. The research focus of CENS was later broadened to include current European affairs, the European Union's neighborhood policy, with particular attention to its Eastern neighborhood, and challenges of EU external relations. Towards these goals, the Center for European Neighborhood Studies seeks to implement a variety of measures based on the core objectives and policies outlined below.

1. Fundamental Objectives: Multidisciplinary Research on EU Policies, with a Focus on Enlargement and Neighborhood Policies

To promote a dialogue between member states and partners in Eastern and Southern Europe, academics and decision makers in the EU and in national governments, so that they may have a more informed understanding of factors that influence Europe's common future.

To contribute to CEU's education activities by disseminating consistent knowledge on various EU policies, including enlargement and neighborhood policy, and providing an additional focus on the European policy process from an EU external policy perspective.

2. Fundamental Activities: Research, Education and Policy Contribution

In order to achieve these objectives CENS's basic activities are the following:

- Scientific research on the political and economic transformation process in new EU members and candidate countries, enlargement and neighborhood policies and various other EU policy areas,
- International cooperation with academic and research entities, pursuing common research projects and organizing conferences, workshops and dissemination events,
- Education for students and professionals,
- Contribution to the policy formulation of governmental, business and social actors in the EU and its neighborhood through policy analysis.

3. CENS Organization

- CENS is a special multidisciplinary research center of the Central European University conducting research and disseminating results to contribute to CEU's education activities. It functions with the autonomy and obligations provided by the CEU Founding Charter and internal regulation.
- CENS is headed by the Director. The Director represents the Center at the University level, nominates staff members for research and administrative positions, and conducts negotiations representing the Center. The Director approves all contractual and research arrangements which may need further confirmation if necessary by CEU senior officials. Her/his legal duties cannot be substituted within the Center. Representative and other informal duties may be transferred to other fellows by the Director's decision.
- The CENS Director shall be appointed by the President and Rector of the CEU. S/he shall assume full responsibility to the Rector. If the Director's position is not filled by any reason, the President and Rector of the CEU shall decide on CENS working procedure.
- CENS has four basic geographic fields of activities: lessons of past enlargement rounds (integration of new member states); EU-relations with the Western Balkans; Eastern Partnership and Russia; and EU-relations with Turkey. In these four areas the Center aims for consolidated knowledge on EU policies. CENS research staff profiles cover these fields of EU external policy.
- CENS's main consultative body is the Center's meeting, held normally weekly or at any interval deemed by the Director. These meetings shall provide a forum for the regular overview of activities and the exchange of information.
- The research and other activities of CENS are regularly evaluated in the framework of the given cooperation formats with its sponsors as stipulated by their rules and procedures. Additionally, CENS, represented by its Director, holds regular consultations with its key sponsors and international partners concerning its research and other activities, and the Director considers their feedback when developing CENS's strategic directions and action plans.

4. Closing Regulations

This Charter is approved by the Director of CENS. It is in force for 3 years and may be changed only with the Director's approval.