

**Center for EU Enlargement Studies  
invites you to**

# **DRIVERS OF DEMOCRATIZATION IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE 25 YEARS OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

**November 24, 2015 9 A.M. | Popper Room, Nador utca 9**

**Opening remarks – Péter Balázs**, Director, CEU Center for EU Enlargement Studies, Budapest

**Panel I. – Civil society and 25 years of post-communist transformations in East Central Europe**

**Panel II. – Civil society in recent democracies country in focus: Hungary**

**Roundtable discussion with all conference speakers:**

**Civil society in East Central Europe after 25 years of transformations the road ahead**

**ABSTRACT** | This conference explores the ways in which civil society evolved in East Central Europe in the last 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the fall of communist regimes. We investigate how civil society changed its repertoires of action, strategies, discourses and gained legitimacy, from the period preceding 1989, when it was up against totalitarian regimes, until 2013, when it has secured a legally binding place for itself and pressure for more substantive democracy. While each country is different and communist and post-communist contexts vary, the role and importance of civil society in bringing about change is unquestionable, both in 1989 and in 2013. The conference is part of CEU's *Frontiers of Democracy* initiative, which aims to promote open debate, discussion, and exchange of ideas with a diversity of views about the nature of democracy today.