

Conference plan and abstracts

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Details of your proposed paper:

Title of the paper: **The European Union with special regard to Hungary and Romania: Reflections on the emerging patters of geopolitical tools**

Language of the paper: English

Abstract of your proposed paper:

What is the nature of geopolitical relationships established within the European Union and Romania and Romania's neighborhood? How is this relationship strategized and mediated in the context of the EU? One thing is clear: geopolitics has and holds a great potential of triggering processes embodying the key for economic and political stability within the European Union. Uncertainty regarding what it is to become of the contemporary European Union, yet apparent certainty about the need for reconstructing geopolitics within the EU has rekindled interest in the field of international relations. Such renewed interest of this core concept has translated into the need for a greater historical sensitivity to forms of geopolitical social organization that can arose European political structures. Dissatisfaction with past views on geopolitical outlooks makes necessary an inquiring into the nature of the politics of Europe, Romania and its neighboring countries. It is now something of a bien pensant cliché to remark that the EU-led policy of public diplomacy and soft power did a lot to persuade countries into the system. Geopolitics and soft power appear in all states. It is interesting to study their regional application, starting with the geopolitical relation between Hungary, Romania and the EU.

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Details of your proposed paper:

Title of the paper: **The EU and the Hungarian - Romanian Historical**

Reconciliation

Language of the paper: English

Abstract of your proposed paper:

The fact that Hungary and Romania, or the political entities that preceded them, are neighbors is the most important premise for their very strong relationship during the history. They were, in different turns, the owners of the same territories. Transilvania represented, without any doubts, the major source of conflicts between them; both Hungary and Romania claimed that the territory between the Carpatians and the Panonic Field belongs to them. Nowadays, Transilvania belongs to Romania, but the Hungarian traces are still visible there. A large part of the population of this region is represented by Hungarians. They speak Hungarian, celebrate the National Day of Hungarians and even declare their empathy for Hungary.

When seeing this, part of the Romanian citizens consider this attitude a treat for their entity. This is the starting point for a discriminatory attitude towards the Hungarians.

On the other hand, both the Hungarians from Romania and the Hungarians from Hungary have a bad attitude towards Romanians, considering that they broke up illegitimately the Hungarian territory.

While the attitude between the citizens of these two countries doesn't seem to be very appropriate, we can consider that in political plan things are different. The officials of Hungary and Romania have a close relationship. In the recent attempt of Romania to enter in the Schengen Area, Hungary proof to be one of its closest allies. As a matter of fact, one of the most important objectives of Hungary in its presidency mandate at the European Council is to strengthen the relations between East and West of the EU, so to bring Romania closer to EU.

It seems to me that at this point the only big changes in the relationship between Hungary and Romania has to be made in the attitude of their citizens because the politic and economic ties between them seem to be very strong.

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Details of your proposed paper: **Hungary and Romania: Politics of History in the last three decades**

One of the most important aspects of the inter-country relationship between Romania and Hungary, the cultural-historical debate constituted the backbone and the main corpus of material for argumentation in the case of conflicts or détente. Since the societies of both countries construct their identity by reference to their historical and cultural heritages, the debates around history comprised the battleground for the cultural conflicts which reverberated into diplomatic conflicts as well. The same politics of history and memory are the one which offered solutions to the eventual reconciliation.

The paper which I propose shall treat the troubled cultural and diplomatic relationships of Romania and Hungary, concentrating especially on the attempts to defuse troublesome and controversial subjects in the historiographies of the two countries. The interplay between cultural and political factors shall also be analyzed, starting from the axiom of the inextricable tie between history and the political factor. The reflections of the actions of these two actors

in the public sphere, and its reactions toward these steps shall also be included into the presentation, in order to see how the situation took on its recent shape.

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Details of your proposed paper:

Both Romania and Hungary pay a special attention to their kin-minorities living abroad. There were intensive debates on the Hungarian status law in 2001. Since then, millions of Romanians emigrated, and Romania adopted a new kin-minority law in 2007. Hungary amended its citizenship law. Both states pay a special attention to their kins living abroad. In my presentation I will speak about the major – theoretical and political – dilemma concerning this issue, and I will focus on how this affects the bilateral relations. I will reflect also on the voting rights of the citizens living outside the countries.

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Details of your proposed paper:

Even the changes in domestic politics of both countries did not interrupt the continuous rapprochement in the Hungarian-Romanian relations of the past half decade. One component of this process is that, since the EU-accession of Romania, the legal situation of the ethnic minorities (including that of the ethnic Hungarians) has undergone positive development, although not so far reaching as the Hungarians would like to see. On the other hand, the Hungarian approach has been mostly coinciding with the Romanian foreign political endeavors both in European and regional aspects. Generally, the interest-based political cooperation raised a positive echo in both societies. Yet the ground for a solid reconciliation of the two nations would be rather such a decisive commitment of the public opinion that keeps the rapprochement on an irreversible track.