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## INTEGRATION VS DISINTEGRATION? CEECS TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CHALLENGES

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Anton Bebler, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, anton.bebler@fdv.uni-lj.si

Jerzy Wiatr, European School of Law and Administration, Warsaw, jwiatr@ewspa.edu.pol

Marjan Malešič, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, marjan.malesic@fdv.uni-lj.si

### Panel: **Security in Central-Eastern Europe and beyond**

#### **Summary**

There are several complex security threats Europe in general and Central-Eastern European countries in particular are potentially confronted with: active and frozen military conflicts, international terrorism, cyber (information) warfare, climate change, energy insecurity, mass migrations, organized crime etc. Therefore several events and processes should be discussed such as the annexation of Crimea by Russian Federation, its role in South-Eastern Ukraine conflict and its attitude towards other neighbouring countries, conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, inter-ethnic political turbulence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and to a certain extent also in Macedonia, ISIL's terrorist attacks in France, Belgium, Germany, Turkey, UK..., frequent cyber-attacks on international organisations and individual countries, migrant crisis experienced in 2015-16 was also perceived as a threat in some European countries etc. Some of these threats stimulate contemplation about several security related concepts and structures, respectively, such as military aggression, hybrid warfare, asymmetric warfare, security sector reform, security and defence efforts of the European Union, the role of NATO and the role of European countries in the Alliance, defence spending, manning of the armed forces (revival of conscription or even national service?) and so forth. One of the key questions is what is the most appropriate institutional and organizational framework to cope with threats at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels? And what are the adequate strategies, mechanisms and instruments to respond to them? And last but not least, how to find an effective way to counter complex threats to Central-Eastern Europe and beyond? Scientists and experts from various disciplines are invited to discuss some of the abovementioned topics during the panel.

**Key words:** complex threats to security, EU, NATO and CEEC, security concepts and structures, security strategies, mechanisms and instruments.