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Superpower Rivalry in the Post-Soviet Region

The geopolitical rivalry and the clash of interests of superpowers have been present in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia for centuries. When the East-West division was still alive during the Cold War, these locations were “excluded” from the geopolitical rivalry between superpowers as they were part of the Soviet empire.

The dismantling of the *Pax Sovietica* and the subsequent collapse of the Cold-War division of the world gave rise to a new geopolitical situation in the post-Soviet region. The former USSR was superseded by the Russian Federation and other political entities independent from Russia, yet having strong bonds with the region, both in terms of geography, identity and political culture. The Russian Federation wanted this region to remain in its exclusive zone of influence. However, in fact, it became an arena of rivalry between the great powers: Russia (wars against Georgia and Ukraine, establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union), China (“One Belt, One Road” project) and the United States. Moreover, the western part of the post-Soviet space is under the influence of the EU (ENP, Eastern Partnership), while its southern part is being penetrated by Turkey and Iran.

The aim of our workshop is to analyze a broad spectrum of superpower rivalry in the post-Soviet region (states, international organizations and non-government actors). It is important to take into account different dimensions (political, economic, socio-cultural, security) and consequences of superpower rivalry for countries located in that region along with their reactions. We will seek to find answers to the following research questions: How do great powers penetrate the post-Soviet space? Will the Russian Federation remain the key player in the region and how do other post-Soviet states try to limit its hegemony? Will Russia’s revisionist policy result in NATO’s revitalization? Are the EU and NATO thinking strategically as far as Eastern Europe is concerned? Does a rationale for a change of Eastern Europe’s security condition (the grey zone of security) exist?

We welcome all the papers related to the above mentioned topics, such as:

- Russian (European, American, Chinese, Turkish) strategy towards the post-Soviet space;
- EU – Russia, USA – Russia, Russia – China competition in the region;
- Country studies related to the great powers’ game in the post-Soviet region;
- Sectorial studies (ideology, media, energy, religion);
- Frozen conflicts as a major element of the great powers’ rivalry in the former USSR (and conflict resolution);
- Geopolitics of identity in the post-Soviet region;
- Revolution and war in the post-Soviet region;
- Transregional versus national perspectives regarding the contemporary post-Soviet region.