

## Call for Papers: European foreign policies and the Russia-Ukraine war

*EWIS, Krakow, 2-4 July 2025*

Workshop conveners: David Cadier, IRSEM ([david.cadier@irse.fr](mailto:david.cadier@irse.fr)) and Tom Casier, University of Groningen ([t.r.casier@rug.nl](mailto:t.r.casier@rug.nl))

### Abstract

The Russia-Ukraine war represents a critical juncture for European security. It has prompted a leap forward in EU defence and enlargement policies as well as substantial reconfigurations in national foreign policies. Germany's *Zeitenwende*, Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO, Poland's doubling of its military spending, or France's policy shift on Ukraine's membership into NATO are only but a few examples of the latter. National foreign policies have not all evolved in this, or the same, direction, however: Hungary and, more recently, Slovakia have opposed or even blocked EU financial aid to Ukraine. Russia has, in fact, long been a divisive topic among EU member states. The EU's ability to respond to the challenge it poses to European security and meaningfully support Ukraine over the long term will necessarily be contingent on convergence of national positions. It appears therefore crucial to reflect on what shapes them.

This workshop will investigate the content, drivers and evolution of European states' policies towards Russia, Ukraine, and the Russia-Ukraine war. While the workshop will mainly focus on EU member states and hope to cover a wide range of them, we also very much welcome contributions on candidate and ENP countries (e.g. Western Balkans, Eastern neighbourhood, Turkey, etc.), on groups of countries (e.g. the Visegrad group, the Nordics, etc.) and on the EU itself. We notably encourage systematic comparisons across several countries. The aim of the workshop is also to mobilise – and reflect on the utility of – the various conceptual and methodological tools in Foreign Policy Analysis, International Relations and EU studies to methodically and collectively investigate national European foreign policies in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war.

More specifically, the workshop will pursue three inter-related objectives and address three sets of general questions.

- First, it will aim to take stock of national foreign policy decisions, choices and orientations vis-à-vis Russia, Ukraine, and the war. How have European states' respectively positioned themselves on these issues? How have these national positions evolved since the full-scale invasion of February 2022? Where can we document patterns of foreign policy change (or not)?
- Second, the workshop will seek to unpack the different factors, dynamics and contexts that influence national foreign policies. What has been the influence (if any) of traditional foreign policy determinants, such as leader's personality traits, bureaucratic dynamics, domestic political contestation, historical memory, identity, political culture, great power competition or systemic pressure? What other factors or dynamics have been influential in shaping national positions vis-à-vis Russia, Ukraine and the war?
- Third, the workshop will purport to shed light on how these national positions interact, mutate (or not) and come together (or not) at the EU level. Can we identify patterns of Europeanization or, on the contrary, de-europeanization? How have coordination and bargaining dynamics unfolded? What has been the role of EU institutions?