

Call for papers

Workshop on Regional Integration and External Governance in the Post-Soviet Region

Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen (Germany)

11 – 12 July 2014

Regional integration initiatives in the post-Soviet region have recently gained momentum and caused increasing tensions. This development has also led to a considerable rise in academic publications on the issue. Most publications focus on the initiatives for regional integration (namely from Russia and the EU) or on organisations offering more specific external governance initiatives (ranging from the WTO to the EITI). This workshop, on the contrary, wants to examine the perspective of those countries in the post-Soviet region which are invited to join the initiatives. It will focus on two specific issues:

- 1) *Reactions to the regional integration offers from Russia and the EU.* For the six countries which belong to the Western CIS and the South Caucasus (alternatively called the Eastern Neighbourhood by the EU), Russia and the EU are both providing regional integration offers, which are generally perceived to be mutually exclusive. It is, therefore, important to understand how political and economic elites as well as the broader public in these countries discuss the integration offers, how related political decision-making processes work and how these decisions are turned into foreign policy.
- 2) *Reactions to external governance initiatives focusing on anti-corruption and transparency.* For the Central Asian countries of the post-Soviet region, the only full-fledged regional integration offer has been made by Russia. Accordingly, more specific external governance initiatives are of greater relevance. In order to have a clear focus, the workshop will deal with external governance initiatives designed to reduce corruption and increase transparency, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for resource rich countries. Again the workshop will examine how these initiatives are discussed in the countries expected to join, whether they are likely to be implemented and if yes, in which way.

Deadline for applications is 16 March 2014. Please send an abstract of no more than one page to Heiko Pleines (pleines@uni-bremen.de)

Invited participants will be contacted by the end of March. Papers have to be submitted by 15 June 2014.

Travel expenses of invited participants will be covered by the organizers. The organisational team consists of Saipira Furstenberg, Alla Leukavets and Heiko Pleines.

The workshop is organized by the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen within the Marie Curie Initial Training Network „Post-Soviet Tensions“ under the 7th European Community Framework Programme (grant no: FP7-PEOPLE-2012-ITN-316825) as part of a workshop series conducted jointly with the University of Cambridge and the University of Leiden with initial support from CEELBAS – Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies.