Second International Neighbourhood Symposium provides a forum for international dialogue and study

The CIES successfully held the 2nd International Neighbourhood Symposium (INS): “Security and Democracy in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Mediterranean South in the Wake of the Arab Awakening” on 26 June to 1 July 2012 on Heybeliada, Istanbul, Turkey. Participants from the Eastern Neighborhood, Mediterranean South, Europe and the United States had the opportunity to explore both global and regional issues during a four-day intensive course of interactive sessions focusing on security, democratization, energy, trade and civil society led by prominent experts. Sessions were complemented by a series of workshops on conflict resolution methodology, which were led by expert facilitator Professor Benjamin Broome from Arizona State University. Through the workshops participants created joint project ideas as a way to ensure cooperation after the Symposium was completed. Throughout the event, participants had ample opportunities for networking and dialogue, whether in a formal session or over dinner after the day’s end. As one participant wrote in her evaluation, “The Symposium was very interesting and the participants had opportunity not only to communicate, widen their horizons, but also find the associates. And this is very important as such meeting becomes the first step to joint projects in the future”.

The International Neighbourhood Symposium project is geared towards young professionals to provide a forum for study, dialogue and networking in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment. For further information regarding the 2nd International Neighbourhood Symposium please visit our website at http://www.khas.edu.tr/abaumindex.php?id=63.
CIES Task Force on NATO moves further in their discussions

The experts of the CIES’ Task Force on Defining NATO’s Role in the Post-Arab Spring Era met once again on 26 June 2012 to continue their discussion on current challenges to freedom and security in the Southern Neighborhood of NATO. The CIES established the Task Force in the wake of major economic and political developments in the Southern Neighborhood, including the upheavals of the Arab Spring. These developments intensified the need for a more specific understanding of security issues facing Turkey and NATO in the Southern and Eastern Neighborhoods. This meeting brings the Task Force one step closer to its drafting a policy report and hosting a public debate upon its conclusion.

CIES partners with youth

The CIES became a partner to two international events promoting dialogue among youth on important global issues. This year was the second year the CIES partnered with the Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation, RhodesMRC, co-organized by the House of Europe in Rhodes, the City of Rhodes, the Department of Mediterranean Studies of the University of the Aegean and the European Network for Education and Training. This year’s conference, which was held in Rhodes, Greece in October 2012, entailed simulations of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the Council of Europe.

The CIES also became a partner to the First Youth Kyiv Security Forum which was held 23-24 November 2012 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The First Youth Kyiv Security Forum, organized by the Arseniy Yatsenyuk Open Ukraine Foundation, is a new initiative which aims to create a discussion platform for young experts from different countries on important issues of international relations and foreign policy. The main goals of the Forum are to empower the new generation by increasing its capacity to participate in policy analyses and policy development processes.

CIES participates in the Anna Lindh Foundation’s Turkey Network meeting in Eskişehir

The CIES participated in the Anna Lindh Foundation’s (ALF) Turkey Network meeting held in Eskişehir on 21-22 September 2012. The meeting brought together 25 network members to discuss ALF’s yearly plan, projects and funding opportunities. The Common Action committee, which the CIES is a part of with 12 other Turkish network members, also met during this meeting to discuss ideas for a joint common action activity between the ALF Turkey Network members. The ALF Turkey Network received funding for their project proposal under the Common Action initiative of the ALF. The Common Action initiative was started by the ALF “to strengthen the ALF intercultural work in the field, at, national, local and sub-regional level and to increase the level of members’ mobilization and networking by promoting operational and thematic cooperation within National Networks”. The ALF asks that activities planned under the Common Action initiative focus on the themes of social and cultural diversity; democratic accountability and freedoms through intercultural means; and inclusive and sustainable human development. The Common Action committee plans to organize an event on one of these themes geared towards youth in the Spring of 2013.
The CIES had the opportunity to brief two university groups of student and faculty members visiting Istanbul in May 2012: a group from Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens, Greece on 17 May, and a group from the US Marine Corps War College in Quantico, Virginia, United States on 18 May.

The visitors from Panteion University were briefed by the CIES director Dimitrios Triantaphyllou and Lerna Yanık of Kadir Has University on Turkish foreign policy and university life in Turkey.

Faculty and students from the US Marine Corps War College were briefed by the CIES director Dimitrios Triantaphyllou and Mitat Çelikpala and Sedat Aybar from Kadir Has University on Istanbul’s traditional role as a trading center and the evolution of Turkey’s domestic politics and its foreign policy.
Conference encourages security cooperation in the Black Sea region

A three-day conference at Kadir Has University on 28-30 May 2012 brought together a large group of representatives from organizations throughout the Black Sea region, Europe and the United States. The “New Security Challenges in the Greater Black Sea Area: Towards a Cooperative Agenda” conference provided participants with the unique opportunity to explore and understand emerging security dynamics in the Greater Black Sea Area by assessing new security challenges, threats, and sources of risk. The goal of the meeting was to identify solutions for regional security problems that take into account the interests and priorities of all regional stakeholders and contribute to the emergence of sustainable mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation.

Organizations represented at the conference included governmental agencies, civil society groups, parliamentarians, journalists and professionals whose work centered on defense and security issues. Particular attention was paid to the issues of critical infrastructure protection, energy security, transnational organized crime, and cyber security, as well as an overview of critical security-related issues currently facing the region.

This conference was organized by the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes — Regional Stability in the Greater Black Sea Area Working Group in partnership with the CIES, who was host to the event, the Harvard University Black Sea Security Program and the International Relations Council of Turkey.

Transatlantic Trends and the Role of Turkey: Panel discussions and simultaneous survey launch

The CIES partnered with the German Marshall Fund of the United States to host a public debate at Kadir Has University on 12 September to commemorate the release of the German Marshall Fund’s Transatlantic Trends 2012 survey.

The Transatlantic Trends is a public opinion survey, now in its eleventh year, which gauges sentiment on transatlantic relations through interviews with over 13,000 people throughout the U.S., Europe, and Turkey. This event occurred simultaneously with the public launch and presentation of the 2012 report in Istanbul, Washington, DC, and several cities in Europe.

Experts on two discussion panels debated various aspects of the role of Turkish public opinion in Turkey’s relations with the West and transatlantic perspectives on the Arab awakenings.
The CIES celebrates Europe Day with a conference on Turkey on the European Doorstep

On 11 May 2012, as part of its “Europe Day” commemoration, the CIES partnered with the European People’s Party (EPP) Group in the European Parliament and Kadir Has University’s Department of Economics in the form of an international conference on the current and future state of the EU and the evolving relationship between Turkey and the Union.

The namesake of this conference is a recent publication compiled by the EPP Group which was presented to an audience in Turkey for the first time at the start of the event.

Speakers at the conference included current and former Members of the European Parliament, a former Turkish diplomat, and several scholars from both Turkey and European countries.

The first panel focused primarily on the EU’s current and projected state of affairs. The second panel analyzed various aspects and the future challenges of Turkey-EU relations. For further detailed information about this conference please visit the CIES web site at http://www.khas.edu.tr/en/ciesindex.php?id=76.

US Election Results: What do They Mean for Turkey?

The CIES, with support from the Kadir Has University Political Science and International Relations Student Club, held a panel discussion immediately following the United States’ national and local elections which took place on 6 November 2012. The panel discussion, “US Election Results: What do They Mean for Turkey?”, analyzed the results of the election and discussed the implications for Turkish-US relations. During the panel, the panelists expressed their views about what Barack Obama’s second term would mean both for the United States’ domestic policies and to its foreign policy issues, particularly those affecting the Middle East and Turkey. The panel discussion, moderated by Serhat Güvenç of Kadir Has University, included Gülden Ayman of Marmara University, Soner Çağaptay of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Soli Özel of Kadir Has University, and İltür Turan of İstanbul Bilgi University.

CIES assists Kadir Has University in hosting two international events

The CIES assisted Kadir Has University in hosting an international conference titled “Security, Democracy and Development in the Southern Caucasus and the Black Sea Region,” organized by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN) between 11 and 13 October 2012. The conference brought together approximately 130 scholars, policymakers, experts, students and researchers from the Black Sea region and beyond.

The conference offered a forum for the presentation and discussion of ongoing research projects addressing the issues of security, democracy, and development in the Southern Caucasus and the wider Black Sea region. About sixty young researchers and PhD students had the opportunity to present their findings and receives expert input to further their work on the papers they presented.

The second of these events was a Turkey study trip organized by the College of Europe’s Natolin Campus for its students which was held at Kadir Has University 1 - 3 November 2012. Through this study program the College of Europe aimed to enable its students to understand Turkish politics, society and culture through meetings with Turkish academics, journalists and representatives of civil society groups. As part of the program, the CIES director Dimitrios Triantaphyllou gave a lecture on the Black Sea Region and briefed the students about the dynamics therein.
Third and fourth Neighbourhood Policy Papers published

The third and fourth papers of the Neighbourhood Policy Paper series have been published. This series is a joint venture between the CIES and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation which seeks to bring experts’ perspectives on issues in the EU’s Eastern Neighborhood to interested policy makers and researchers.

The papers will also be published in Russian to encourage a wider scope on the dialogue surrounding such issues. The third paper, entitled The European Neighbourhood Policy’s First Decade in the Eastern Neighbourhood was written by Elena Gnenida and Nicu Popescu. It focuses on the successes and failures of the EU’s neighborhood policy towards its Eastern neighbors. The relationship is one of interdependence and increased involvement on the part of the EU, argue the authors, but not one of outright power.

Hannes Adomeit authored the fourth paper, called Putin’s ‘Eurasian Union’: Russia’s Integration Project and Policies on Post-Soviet Space. This paper assesses the rationale behind and the potential of the ‘Eurasian Union’ project that is being promoted by Russian president Vladimir Putin.

These papers, along with other papers in the series, can be accessed at http://www.khas.edu.tr/en/ciesindex.php?id=75, or by visiting the CIES home page and then clicking the “Publications” link in the sidebar.

CIES UPCOMING EVENTS

- **23 January 2013**: A panel discussion on “The Israeli Election Results: What do they Mean for the Middle East” will be held at Kadir Has University’s Cibali Campus from 10:30-12:00.

- **25-30 June 2013**: The 3rd International Neighbourhood Symposium will take place in Heybeliada, Turkey. The theme of this event will be made public during December 2012.

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Hello everyone, I am Sebastiano Sali (yes, like Tuesday in Turkish, but it means tuz in Italian) and since mid-April I have been a Research Fellow at the Center for International and European Studies (CIES) at Kadir Has University. Some of you may have met me at the Symposium in Heybeliada in June; if not, since September you may have found me back at the second floor of the Beyaz Ev, where CIES is based, just outside the main campus. I am here at Kadir Has University with a 12-month fellowship from TÜBİTAK.

After completing a Master’s in Security Studies at Aberystwyth University in Wales, I started my PhD in 2010 in London at the Department of War Studies at King’s College. My project focuses on the Turkish foreign policy of the first decade of the new millennium and it aims to analyze it through the lenses of multiple Turkish identities. My primary interest is to understand the ideas, values and beliefs, in short die Weltanschauung (German for “worldview”), that all those people involved in the construction of Turkey’s foreign policy have about themselves, Turkey, and the outside world, and how that in turn shapes Turkish foreign policy.

The idea of my project is that the perception of what we are (the self) heavily influences our relations with other actors with whom we co-exist, in this case, at the international level. To this extent, I consider Turkey a very interesting example. During my first stay in Turkey in 2008 and my travels around the South and the East of the country, I had the impression that different “selves” coexist in Turkey, which have different sets of values and beliefs, and therefore tend to build different relationships with the same subjects. What I expect from my stay in Turkey is to have the chance to talk to people, in particular to those that participate through speeches and writings in the debate about Turkey’s foreign policy, and to explore the difference in their thinking and where the latter originates from. So far, my experience at Kadir Has and the CIES has proved very useful. Right from the beginning, both the academic and administrative staff have been very helpful in providing me the feedback on my work and the assistance I needed to settle down as quickly as possible and to make the most of my time in Turkey. Additionally, being at the Symposium in Heybeliada was a very nice opportunity: a unique experience both for getting to know other peer researchers and for enjoying the beauty of Istanbul’s fantastic islands. Therefore, in light of this very promising and interesting beginning, I am very much looking forward to the months to come here at the CIES and Kadir Has. The main aim of my stay at Kadir Has is to have the chance to work with some of the finest academics in Turkey and to make the most of their support; however, I would be also very happy if anybody could profit from my (little) experience in the world of academia, especially if interested in studying or working in the United Kingdom or on similar subjects to my current project.
The CIES wishes you a Happy New Year!