The Center for International and European Studies (CIES) at Kadir Has University will host the 3rd International Neighbourhood Symposium at Heybeliada, Turkey between Tuesday, 25 June and Sunday, 30 June 2013. This year’s Symposium will focus on “The Eastern Neighbourhood and the Mediterranean South – Tackling the Issues of Security, Democracy and Business.”

The Eastern Neighbourhood and the Mediterranean South are shared neighborhoods of the European Union, its member states, the Russian Federation, and Turkey. While each is distinct with its own historical, political, social, cultural and economic characteristics; their proximity suggests synergy across many sectoral issues such as energy, transport, and the environment. While the Eastern Neighbourhood is composed of many states that aspire to closer ties including membership in the European Union and NATO; it is also home to the Russia Federation whose estrangement with the West and its institutions is growing while it claims the neighborhood for itself. The Mediterranean South finds itself in a state of ebullition for over two years since the Arab Awakening began.

The International Neighbourhood Symposium aims to discuss, assess, and understand these changes and challenges as well as explore the synergies between the two regions and the rest of Europe. Consequently, it will focus on the theme of Security and its challenges in each region. A dedicated panel will also look at how the issues of energy and energy security affect the security context. Attention will also be paid to the economic context and the role of Business as well as on the prospects of social entrepreneurship as there is a growing interest in both profit making and a positive return to society in both regions. Additionally, the energy issue will be presented from a business perspective. Finally, the themes of Democracy and democratization will be debated to assess the state of play in both regions and their prospects for the future. All of these points will be discussed further through Structured Dialogue workshops facilitated by Professor Benjamin Broome from Arizona State University.

The International Neighbourhood Symposium aims to promote further understanding and cooperation in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Mediterranean South and beyond by providing a forum for study, dialogue and networking in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment. Young professionals and graduate students primarily from the countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood, the Mediterranean South, EU member states, and the United States are the Symposium target group. In addition, applicants from the fields of public policy, politics, journalism, and business are especially encouraged to apply. The target age group is 22-35 years of age.

The CIES project enjoys the support of numerous international partners and sponsors. To date these include the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation; the Corporate Social Responsibility Association of Turkey; the Harvard University Black Sea Security Program; the International Relations Council of Turkey (UIK); Kadir Has University; the UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development; the European Studies Institute of Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO); the International Institute for Peace, Vienna; the Open Ukraine Foundation, Kyiv; the International Center for Hellenic and Mediterranean Studies (DIKEMES), Athens; Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Lebanon, Beirut; and the Center for International Studies (CIRS), Kyiv.

Second Call: New Application Deadline is 7 April 2013. Please note that no more scholarships for travel and fee waivers are available. Applicants selected from this call will have to pay the participation fee and cover their own travel expenses.