

PREVENTION OF ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

International Efforts in post-Communist Countries

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General information: The fourth ECPR (European Consortium for Political Research) Conference will take place in Pisa. All panels and the registration and book exhibition area will be located in the host institution, the University of Pisa, which is centrally located and near many hotels and restaurants.

Time: September 6-8, 2007.

Place: Pisa, Italy.

Deadline: January 19, 2007.
Full papers to be submitted until August 2007.

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Organised and other forms of crime and corruption in post-communist transformation countries are receiving continuing attention on part of international bodies and Western countries, more recently increasingly from a security perspective. On a European regional level, in the course of the 2004 EU enlargement, new security concerns have been raised about an expansion of transnational organised crime from Russia and other CIS countries. At the same time, corruption is increasingly viewed as a national and international security issue, as it has been an important factor leading to the ›colour‹ and ›flower‹ revolutions in the post-communist world since 1999. Corruption is also said to increasing unpredictability in foreign policy-making, in fostering transnational (organised) crime and in facilitating terrorism.

This panel discusses how international actors such as the EU or the UN seek to deal with crime and corruption in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). Transnational crime prevention is a young, but very significant field of cooperation across West- East dimensions. While it may be too early to assess successes, it is time to address conceptual approaches towards the prevention of crime and corruption in the post-communist region. First, it is vital to examine how respective efforts, expectations, and initial disillusionments may affect the unfolding relations between international bodies and various post-communist countries. Second, scholars need to revisit the conceptual challenges of studying organized and other forms of crime, corruption, and terrorism. Identification of differences and overlaps, synergies and spillover effects is crucial when seeking to prevent one or the other criminal element, especially in post-communist contexts where old and new characteristics are often blurred. The panel seeks to integrate discussions about different international bodies (such as the EU and the UN) and different country cases (including Eastern Europe, South-eastern Europe, new EU member states) in order to allow for insightful comparative discussion.