

SEnECA press release

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Upcoming SEnECA Midterm Conference and Scenario Workshop on “EU and Central Asia Relations: Current Trends and Future Prospects” on 29 - 31 January 2019 in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Organised by the Central Asia Institute for Strategic Studies (CAISS), the third event of the Horizon 2020 project SEnECA will take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 29-31 January 2019, after a kick-off meeting in Berlin in January 2018 and a Networking Conference in Riga in April 2018. It comprises an internal SEnECA consortium meeting, an international conference and a scenario building workshop on EU-Central Asia relations.

Next to the researchers of the SEnECA consortium, a range of academics, government officials, practitioners and experts from Europe and Central Asia will come together to discuss the current state of affairs of EU-Central Asian relations and ways to provide policy recommendations to decision-makers and to engage interested and powerful stakeholders within the new EU Strategy for Central Asia. Peter Burian, the EU’s Special Representative for Central Asia, will be among the conference participants, which highlights the project’s topicality and political relevance. During the scenario building workshop, the conference participants will develop possible scenarios for future EU-Central Asia relations. This scientific exercise does not only allow to identify important drivers and trends in today’s Central Asia, but also to deepen the analytical skills of the conference participants.

Moreover, the conference will be a great opportunity for researchers and stakeholders to meet, exchange and strengthen the bonds between the two regions. An academic policy advice training will enhance the researchers’ capacities to transfer their research results into policy recommendations towards decision-makers. This is especially important at a moment when the European Union is formulating a new strategy towards Central Asia and is consulting relevant actors with regard to possible focus areas. The strategy is supposed to be finalized in 2019 and SEnECA will impact the strategy through its different project outcomes.

The project “SEnECA – Strengthening and Energizing EU-Central Asia Relations” seeks to improve research cooperation and to strengthen capacities in research and policy advice in the EU and Central Asia. It comprises an international consortium with twelve partner organizations from the EU and all five Central Asian countries. The project is led by Prof. Dr Michael Kaeding, Professor for European Politics at the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE), and Dr Katrin Böttger, Director of the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP). The project is funded with around 1.5 million Euros under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme for a period of two years (January 2018 – December 2019).

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