

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (CEPSA) COUNCIL 2023

CEPSA Council met on the 27th of September 2023, between 18.30 and 19.30 hours.

Representatives of following CEPSA members were present: Dario Čepo (Croatia), Simona Kukovič (Slovenia), Zsolt Boda (Hungary), Petr Just (Czech Republic), Jaroslav Ušiak (Slovakia), Małgorzata Kaczorowska (Poland), Andrea Pribersky (Austria), Ingrida Unikaite-Jakuntavičiene (Lithuania). Also present were CEPSA senior presidents Jerzy Wiatr and Karin Liebhart, current president Miro Haček, current vice-president Boglarka Koller, and invited guests Liutauras Gudžinskas (Lithuania) and Jacek Wojnicki (Poland).

Agenda of the meeting:

1. Minutes of the 2022 meeting in Bled
2. Bids for annual conferences 2024 and 2025
3. CEPSA international cooperation and CEPSA journals
4. AOB

1) Minutes from previous EC meeting held in Bled in June 2022 were adopted.

2) CEPSA EC discussed on the bids for the next conference venues. First, bid for the 2024 meeting in Kaunas was presented by the Lithuanian colleagues. The conference will be held on 3rd and 4th of October 2024 at the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania. The topic suggested by the EC was tied to the fact that in 2024 the region will celebrate twenty years since the EU accession. Then, bid for the 2025 meeting in Warsaw was presented by the Polish colleagues. The conference will be held on the last Thursday and Friday in September 2025 at the University of Warsaw, Poland. The topic will be determined at the later date.

3) CEPSA has yet again organized a panel at the most recent IPSA World Congress in July 2023 in Buenos Aires together with IPSA RC47 on the topic of institutional barriers against democratic backsliding in Central and Eastern Europe. Also, CEPSA continues very good cooperation with American PSA, as CEPSA organized panels at both Montreal (2022; on conspiracy theories impacting CEE politics) and Los Angeles annual meetings (2023; on democratic decline in CEE region). CEPSA current has seven official CEPSA journals, listed on the CEPSA webpage, where publication opportunities are presented for CEPSA members also in three Scopus IF Q2 journals.

4) Miro Haček shortly evaluated preparations for the current, 2023 conference, where the highest ever number of paper and panel proposals were submitted, resulting in the need to reject some of them not directly connected to the main topic and/or not submitted from CEPSA member countries. The interest for the CEPSA annual conference is growing, as it was evident from both Bled and also Dubrovnik conferences. Miro Haček also proposed that the obligation of the annual conference organizers to cover two-night accommodation costs for senior presidents and EC CEPSA representatives (usually this is the cost in the vicinity of the 1000 EUR) should be changed to the strong recommendation, given the fact that this is financial burden that could demotivated some potential organizers to organizer annual CEPSA conferences.

Miro Haček also reminded EC members that 2024 is the election year, and in Kaunas there will be no EC meeting, but CEPSA council meeting, there every CEPSA country needs to send two representatives and bids for the leadership position will be accepted.

Boglarka Koller suggested that CEPSA could use Visegrad funds for the financial support of the scientific conferences, and CEPSA could use these resources and we should contact representative of all four Visegrad countries and inquire about the possibilities.

Karin Liebhart presented the workshop on the research in local politics, that will be held on 10 November in either Trnava or Salzburg, co-organized by Austrian PSA, CEPSA and IPSA RC47.

Written by: prof. Miro Haček