

# POLITICKÉ VEDY / POLITICAL SCIENCES

Journal for Political Sciences, Modern History, International Relations, security studies / Časopis pre politológiu, najnovšie dejiny, medzinárodné vzťahy, bezpečnostné štúdiá

URL of the journal / URL časopisu: <http://www.politickevedy.fpvmv.umb.sk>

**Author(s) / Autor(i):** Petia Gueorguieva  
**Article / Článok:** International Scientific Conference: 23rd Annual Conference of Central European Political Science Association 2018 / Medzinárodná vedecká konferencia: 23. Výročná konferencia Stredoeurópskej asociácie politických vied 2018  
**Publisher / Vydavateľ:** Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations – MBU Banská Bystrica / Fakulta politických vied a medzinárodných vzťahov – UMB Banská Bystrica  
**DOI:** <http://doi.org/10.24040/politickevedy.2018.21.4.229-230>

**Recommended form for quotation of the article / Odporúčaná forma citácie článku:**

GUEORGUIEVA, P. 2018. International Scientific Conference: 23rd Annual Conference of Central European Political Science Association 2018. In *Politické vedy*. [online]. Vol. 21, No. 4, 2018. ISSN 1335 – 2741, pp. 229-230. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.24040/politickevedy.2018.21.4.229-230>

By submitting their contribution the author(s) agreed with the publication of the article on the online page of the journal. The publisher was given the author's / authors' permission to publish and distribute the contribution both in printed and online form. Regarding the interest to publish the article or its part in online or printed form, please contact the editorial board of the journal: [politicke.vedy@umb.sk](mailto:politicke.vedy@umb.sk).

Poskytnutím svojho príspevku autor(i) súhlasil(i) so zverejnením článku na internetovej stránke časopisu Politické vedy. Vydavateľ získal súhlas autora / autorov s publikovaním a distribúciou príspevku v tlačenej i online verzii. V prípade záujmu publikovať článok alebo jeho časť v online i tlačenej podobe, kontaktujte redakčnú radu časopisu: [politicke.vedy@umb.sk](mailto:politicke.vedy@umb.sk).

## **INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION 2018**

**Petia Gueorguieva\***

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Central European Political Science Association “One Hundred Years After: 1918-2018” took place in September 2018 at the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Matej Bel University in the beautiful city of Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic.

The conference gathered together around 120 researchers from different institutions from Central and Eastern Europe and from Western universities and institutions as well. It provided the platform to share and discuss their research topics and findings, ranging from history, civil society, citizens and States; corruption, populism and current threats to the Liberal democracy; party politics; coalitions and governments; Euroscepticism and attitudes towards European Union, Central European Cooperation within Visegrad Group, EU common defense policy, relationship between Central European Countries and Russia, and others. A special panel was focused on the political system and issues in Lithuania.

The international conference was inaugurated by Mr. **Vladimír Hiadlovský**, rector of Matej Bel University, H.E. **Christophe Leonzi**, Ambassador of French Republic to the Slovak Republic, Mr. **Jaroslav Ušiak**, Vice-Dean of Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations MBU and **Ladislav Cabada**, the outgoing President of Central European Political Science Association. In the official addresses, the achievements of the past 24 years of cooperation within the framework of the Central European Political Association were highlighted. **Ladislav Cabada** paid a special attention to the new generation of political scientists in the region and in the Central European Political Science Association, which have grown in a democratic context and received education

---

\* Petia Gueorguieva, Ph.D. is a Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Sciences, New Bulgarian University, 21 Montevideo Str., 1618 Sofia, Bulgaria, e-mail: pgeorgieva@nbu.bg.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.24040/politickevedy.2018.21.4.229-230>

in institutions and studies open to internationalization. The participants were offered a reception in the City Hall of Banská Bystrica.

The panel chaired by **Beata Kosowska-Gastol** from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow focused on the issue of “New Political Parties in the CEE States-Remedy for the Crisis of the Mainstream Parties or Generator of a Political Crisis”, and was attended by a great number of presenters and other speakers. The great interest of the issue was related to the fact that it concerns almost all party systems developments in Central and Eastern Europe. Presentations combined testing of the latest theoretical approaches to the new political actors and findings of specialized researches in different national contexts and case studies on Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia. The discussions that followed the panel have pointed out the common trend of citizen’s apathy to politics and the lack of sustainable civic societies and mobilizations in a number of countries in CEE. A general feature of several cases has been the deep citizen’s distrust to political parties and elites. Populisms of different types and anti-systems players are benefiting from these trends. They were analysed in a couple of other panels, namely the panel “Challenges and threats for contemporary democracies in Central and Eastern Europe”, chaired by **Agnieszka Bejma** from the University of Warsaw, and the panel “Trajectories of Party Politics in the Region”, chaired by **Petr Just** from Metropolitan University in Prague. The case of no-party candidates winning local elections in Slovenia, entitled *Local Democracy without Political Parties: Personalization of Local Leaders*, was presented by **Simona Kukovic**, University of Ljubljana. It had been an enlightening one from the point of view of the gap between citizens’ concerns and political parties.

An important part of presentations and panels have been dedicated to the “Threats to the Liberal Democracy”, populism and their impact on national politics and on relationship within the European Union. A special panel analysed the processes of enlargement vs. disintegration in the European Union from the perspective of Central European Countries. Several participants discussed the current political processes in Hungary and Poland in diverse perspectives.

It is important to note the role of the organizers and the staff of the 2018 Annual CEPSA conference, which by their efforts, proved organisational skills and quality ensured a very favourable and stimulating environment for panels, speakers, discussions and networking.