

EDITORIAL

It is a great pleasure to me to introduce the first issue of the first volume of the professional peer-reviewed journal, Central European Papers (CEP). It is a bold act to found a new professional journal at present, and we are aware of it. Nevertheless, we believe that the new journal will have great chance to establish itself in the field of national and international journal production and, in the course of time, to become a significant scientific forum for national and international researchers.

Strength of the journal consists in its multidisciplinary orientation, based on the profile orientation of one of the institutes of the Faculty of Public Policies of the Silesian University in Opava, the Institute of Central European Studies and the Center of Empirical Studies: especially modern history, political science, sociology, or historical sociology. The team of the executive editorial board, aiming at the above stated bold but healthily ambitious project comes from these Institutes.

The geographical focus of the journal on the area of Central Europe also results from the orientation of the above stated Institutes. But we want to understand the Central European area in broader sense, under full awareness of all difficulties related to the territorial delimitation of the region of Central Europe. We don't want to focus only on the narrower geographic delimitation of Central Europe, modern at present and based on so called Visegrád foundation, that has become dominant after the fall of communist governments from the perspective of search of new identity of the states more closely related to the area of former Austria-Hungary. The interconnection of the states situated in the broader region between Western and Eastern Europe is much closer than it would seem at first glance. The common points of the history of the states of the area have intersected since early Middle Ages in different ways, influencing at different degree the common history of the area, sometimes more, sometimes less, according to the actual history phase of the national history of the relevant state. Our effort consists in offering space for application of results of research of professionals whose specialized interest focuses on the area delimited by the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Ukraine and the Baltic States, i.e. in the area aspiring to broader denomination of Central-Eastern Europe. But we do not refuse broader geographic overlaps that can be found in abundant amount in individual disciplines focused by the journal.

A common region with common or at least very similar historical-political experience obliges, but motivates at the same time. Central Europe both in narrower and in broader sense is a phenomenon deserving a journal of similar orientation. And there is space for such journal, which is evidenced by the fact that a great number of manuscripts have arrived to the editorial board of the new journal, including abundant amount of manuscripts of foreign researchers. Thus the reader can learn to know the research results of professionals from the Czech Republic as well as of professionals from the Historical Institute of the Research Centre of Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the University of

Szeged, the University of Pécs, János Kodolányi University of Hungary, but also from the Uzhhorod National University in Ukraine.

The international involvement of, particularly, historians, political scientists and sociologists from up to 11 countries including USA in the editorial board also shows that founding and developing such journal is worth it. The consent of the above stated scientists to be members of the editorial board, as well as their very positive approach to the project constitute an unambiguous evidence of the fact that the phenomenon of Central European states from broader interdisciplinary perspective is not an obsolete object of professional research not only in our Central European area.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who was involved in the preparation of the pilot issue of the Central European Papers journal, the common project of the Faculty of Public Policies of the Silesian University in Opava and János Kodolányi University in Székesfehérvár in Hungary: the secretaries of the executive editorial board, the members of the executive editorial board and, of course, all authors who expressed their confidence to the new professional periodical by submitting their manuscripts to peer review proceedings. Thanks should be expressed, of course, also to all members of the editorial board who, by accepting their membership, expressed their conviction of meaningfulness of this journal project, as well as to the Faculty of Public Policies of the Silesian University in Opava for having created the necessary background for publication of a journal, as well as to the direction of János Kodolányi University in Székesfehérvár for the cooperation at the origination and preparation of the journal. I believe firmly that the journal will soon find its supporters among the professional public, both at the level of readers and at the level of active contributors.

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