The Central European Policy Institute (CEPI) and the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA) cordially invites you to a policy debate

On

“Northern Kosovo: what next after local elections?”

Thursday, 12th December 2013, 17:00-18:30 at the
Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Bérc utca 13-15, Budapest

We are looking forward to seeing you all here for the discussion!

On 2 December, Kosovo held a second round of local election amid EU efforts to make the four Serb municipalities in northern Kosovo fall under Pristina’s sovereignty. The vote was seen as the milestone in normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo and a litmus test for the EU-led diplomatic efforts designed to defuse the last open territorial conflict in the Western Balkans.

The first round was marred by violence and massive boycott in northern Mitrovica, but the second vote took place without major irregularities and incidents, while turn-out in Serb municipalities (both north and south of the Ibar River) was higher than expected.

Does this outcome provide good basis for the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb municipalities in Kosovo? What are the next steps in the ongoing dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina? How will the EU’s role evolve in 2014 once Serbia starts the membership talks?

After more than a decade of no dialogue, Serbs and Kosovars are again learning to talk to each other. In order to support and facilitate this dialogue, the Bratislava-based think-tank CEPI together with its partners from the Visegrad countries has engaged leading researchers from Belgrade and Pristina in series of fact-finding missions, public events, and jointly-drafted policy memos.

Welcome Notes by András Király, Director of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs and H. E. Rastislav Káčer, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Budapest.

Panel discussion

Attila Pintér, Director, Western Balkans Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary
Leon Malazogu, Director, Democracy for Development, Pristina
Nenad Djurdjević, Forum for Ethnic Relations, Belgrade
Milan Nič, Head of Program, Central European Policy Institute, Bratislava

Chair: Beáta Huszka, Senior Research Fellow, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Budapest

The discussion will be followed by a Q & A session.

Refreshment and wine will be served after the discussion. Working language of the debate is English. Seats are limited. Please RSVP at m.kovacs@hiia.hu

This public debate is part of the project “Visegrad support for Serbia-Kosovo dialogue”, supported by the International Visegrad Fund.