

## 1<sup>st</sup> Networking Conference and Review Workshop of the SEnECA Project “Strengthening and Energizing EU-Central Asia Relations”

**Rīga, Latvia, 17 – 18 April 2018**

Who is working on EU-Central Asia relations in Europe and which researchers study the European Union in Central Asia? Who are the stakeholders of EU Central Asia relations in Europe and the region and how can we engage them in a more closely-knit network? These are two questions, the SEnECA-Project “Strengthening and Energizing EU-Central Asia Relations” would like to answer. This Networking Conference is the first occasion for the Horizon 2020 project to present preliminary results and discuss ways to promote networking with policy-makers and stakeholders for the further network and policy analysis. This debate will include representatives from the Central Asia community including researchers, parliamentarians and government representatives from the EU and Central Asia as well as the EU special representative for Central Asia, Peter Burian.

**Conference Venue:**

*Hotel Pullman Riga Old Town,  
Jēkaba street 24*

**Venue for the morning session on 18 April 2018 only:**

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Press conference hall  
K.Valdemāra street 3*

**Please register for the conference by completing [the registration form online](#) by 3 April 2018.**



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 770256.

## AGENDA

### Day 1, Tuesday, 17 April

#### Networking Conference

| Time        | Session   |
|-------------|---|
| 12.00-13.00 | Welcome working lunch   |
| 13.00-13.30 | <p><b>Welcome and introduction to the SEnECA project:</b><br/>Strengthening and Energizing EU-Central Asia Relations</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Michael Kaeding, University of Duisburg-Essen, SEnECA Project Coordinator and<br/>Dr. Katrin Böttger, Institut für Europäische Politik, SEnECA Network and Policy Advice Coordinator</p>  |
| 13.30-15.00 | <p><b>Who holds the stakes for the future of EU-Central Asian relations?</b><br/>The SEnECA stakeholder analysis and its role for increasing SEnECA's impact</p> <p>SEnECA has been designed to improve ties between the EU and Central Asia. In order to link all notable actors, the SEnECA Stakeholder Analysis will identify relevant actors, promoters and multipliers of Central Asia in Europe. SEnECA also aims to increase its outreach by addressing stakeholders through stakeholder-specific tools for each group. Join this debate to discuss with experts on how we can address and engage all relevant stakeholders during the course of the project and how we can ensure that SEnECA maximises its impact.</p> <p>Introduction to the SEnECA stakeholder analysis: Julia Krebs, Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA)</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scientific input on stakeholder analysis: Prof Jaakko Kujala, University of Oulu (tbc)</li> <li>- Pierre Borgoltz, Cooperation Coordinator, Central Asia division, EEAS: Ensuring SEnECA's impact on EU policy-makers (tbc)</li> <li>- Dr. Nargis Kassenova, Associate Professor/Director, Central Asian Studies Center at KIMEP University, Almaty: Reaching and including civil society and non-state-actors (tbc)</li> <li>- Bruce Pannier, Senior Correspondent, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: Improving SEnECA's impact in media (tbc)</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels, Jean Monnet Chair ad personam, Centre for Turkey and European Union Studies, University of Cologne (tbc): Academic policy advice</li> </ul> <p>Discussion (Moderation: Prof. Dr. Michael Kaeding)</p> |



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|-------------|---|
| 15.00-15.30 | <i>Coffee break</i>   |
| 15.30-17.00 | <p><b>Analysing networks among Central Asian researchers</b></p> <p>To build up the SEnECA Research Database, work package 1 maps researchers working partially or full-time on Central Asia in Europe and on European integration in Central Asia. In order to identify supportive and impeding circumstances of research cooperation, this dataset will be used to conduct a network analysis, which researches the current state of affairs in the field. It will analyse the density of links between certain subgroups of researchers within the network, such as citation circles, as well as areas where links are very loose. During the conference, we will present the methodology for the network analysis in order to peer-review it for improving and revising the approach.</p> <p>Introduction:<br/>Julian Plottka, Institut für Europäische Politik; Yzatbek Berenaliev, Kyrgyz National University named after Jusup Balasagyn</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dipl. Geogr. Stefan Kurzmann, University of Bonn (tbc)</li> <li>- Stéphane A. Dudoignon, CNRS Senior Research Fellow at the School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris</li> <li>- Dr. Sultan Akimbekov, Director, Institute of Asian Studies, Almaty</li> <li>- Igors Apokins, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and to Turkmenistan</li> </ul> <p>Discussion (Moderation: Dr. Katrin Böttger)</p> |

## Day 2, Wednesday, 18 April

### Networking Conference

| Time        | Session  |
|-------------|--|
| 9.40-10.00  | <i>Welcome coffee and networking</i>   |
| 10.00-12.00 | <p><b>High-level public panel discussion “Strengthening and Energizing EU-Central Asia Relations”</b></p> <p>The high-level panel discussion will assess the status and prospects of the cooperation between the EU and the Central Asian countries. How successful has the EU engagement in the region been so far? How do the activities of the EU align among activities of other external powers? How could the EU further strengthen and energize the relations with the Central Asian countries?</p> <p>Introduction and moderation: Dr. Andris Sprūds, Director of LIIA, Latvia</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to the SEnECA project: Prof. Dr. Michael Kaeding, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany</li> <li>- Amb. Peter Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia</li> </ul> |

*Venue for this session:*  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
“Press conference hall”  
K.Valdemāra street 3



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|-------------|--|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Nargis Kassenova, Director of the Central Asian Studies Center at KIMEP University, Kazakhstan</li> <li>- Dr. Mirzokhid Rakhimov, Head of the Contemporary History and International Relations Department, National University of Uzbekistan</li> <li>- Amb. Andrejs Pildegovičs, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia</li> </ul> |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch  |

*The networking conference will be followed by an internal workshop for the project consortium and the advisory board members.*



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## Practical information

### Venues:

#### **Conference Venue for the sessions on 17 April:**

*Hotel Pullman Riga Old Town,  
Jēkaba street 24*

#### **The high-level public panel discussion “Strengthening and Energizing EU-Central Asia Relations” on 18 April 2018 will take place at:**

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Press conference hall  
K.Valdemāra street 3*

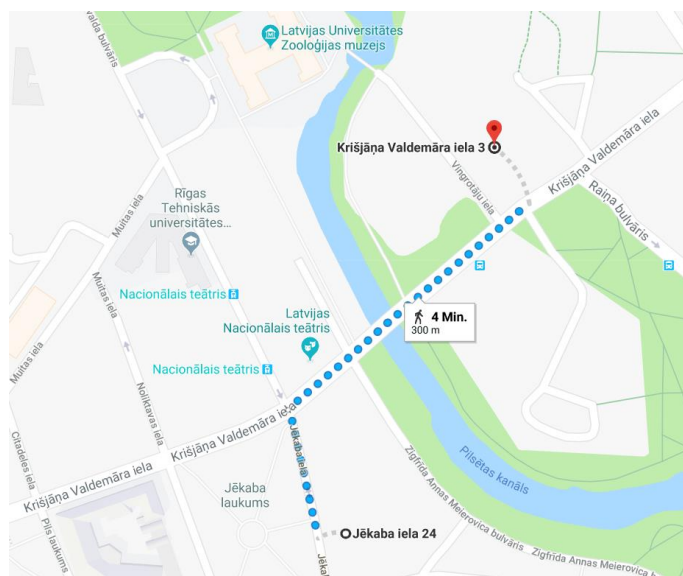
### Accommodation:

Hotel rooms are available in [Hotel Pullman Riga Old Town](#). Please make your reservations directly with the hotel by sending an e-mail to [H9619@accor.com](mailto:H9619@accor.com).

### Directions:

[Hotel Pullman Riga Old Town](#) is located in the centre of Rīga and can be easily reached from [the Riga International Airport](#) – in [approximately 15 minutes by taxi \(up to EUR 10\)](#), or in [approximately 25 minutes by the public bus service \(up to EUR 2\) plus 10 minutes’ walk](#) (please click the embedded links for more information).

The venue of the morning session of 18 April is located within 5 minutes’ walk from the hotel:



### Contact:

For any issues regarding the conference in the run-off of it, e.g. visa issues, and during the course of the conference, please contact either Dr. Māris Andžāns (37129760947, [maris.andzans@liia.lv](mailto:maris.andzans@liia.lv)) or Elizabete Vizgunova (37129228377, [elizabete.vizgunova@liia.lv](mailto:elizabete.vizgunova@liia.lv)).



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