

Introduction

CHALLENGE is a framework program (2004–2009) financed by the EU Commission. Our scientific consortium consists of about 20 academic institutes and seeks to facilitate more responsive and responsible judgments about new regimes and practices of security (with a particular focus on the emerging interface between internal and external security) in order to minimize the degree to which they undermine civil liberties, human rights and social cohesion. This new volume of *REGIO* covers neighborhood context and various aspects of security. Contemporary discussions on the merging between internal and external security and the relationship between liberty and security in Europe are seriously constrained by the degree to which the concepts, historical practices and institutions of liberty and security have been examined independently.

This analytical division of labor expresses the practical and institutional division of labor that has been encouraged by the structures of the modern international system and its distinction between foreign and domestic policies. Articles in this volume are informed by an appreciation of the historical circumstances under which this distinction became a crucial feature of political life in the modern world of sovereign states and of its consequences for the forms of liberal democratic politics that have emerged also in this part of Europe over the past few decades. More significantly, it is also informed by an analysis of a broad range of structural changes on a global scale that now pose many profound challenges to this defining feature of modern European politics. Conversely, and more crucially for this project, the familiar world of secured communities living within well-defined territories and sustaining all the celebrated liberties of civil society is now seriously in tension with a profound restructuring of political identities and practices of securitization.

This volume gives an overview of the changing faces of liberty and security in the CEE region. Beyond the political framework of neighborhood, majority society and nationalism of minorities as well as kin-states, the praxis of securitization or the „European culture of security” (The Hague Programme) is described through comprehensive regional statistics, economic analysis of migrant workers, or sociological survey on visa, border crossing and preparatory for introduction of the Schengen Regime. Due to the fact that our workshop is located in Hungary, the perspective of numerous papers is connected to Hungary, but the editors strongly hope the conclusions are generally applicable. The authors are recruited from academics from Hungary, Romania, Germany, USA and UK representing Diaspora, different generations and sciences, too. We confess it was a challenge for us to edit this volume of excellent and diverse scholars.

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editors