



**International Conference:
Regional and Ethnoregional Parties in Europe and beyond
Pécs, December 4-5, 2025**

FINAL PROGRAM

Venue: 7621 Pécs, Papnövelde utca 22. Conference room (1st floor)

December 4, 2025

12.30-13.00 Registration

13.00-13.15 Opening ceremony – Chair: Balázs Brucker

- Viktor Varjú, director (ELTE CERS Institute for Regional Studies)
- Jean-Michel De Waele, full professor (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Department of Political Studies/Cevipol)

**13.15-14.55 SECTION 1 – REGIONAL AND ETHNOREGIONAL PARTIES:
HISTORICAL DETERMINANTS, HISTORICAL APPROACHES**

Chair: Maria Spirova, Leiden University, Institute of Political Science

Ilona Pálné Kovács	The missing link. Why disappearance of Hungarian counties matters?
Jean-Michel De Waele	Is Belgian federalism killing regionalist parties?
Madeleine Hartmann	Regionalist and ethno-regionalist movements and parties in Upper Silesia in the interwar period and since the 1990s
Perrine Lara	From the Fringe to the Forefront: The Political Rise of the SNP and Plaid Cymru since Devolution

14.55-15.15 Coffee break

**15.15-16.55 SECTION 2 – ETHNOREGIONAL PARTIES AND THE CHALLENGES
OF DEMOCRATIZATION IN CEE**

Chair: Jean-Michel De Waele, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Department of Political Studies/Cevipol

Slaviša Orlovič, Despot Kovačević	Step into the void: the disappearance of regional parties and the repositioning of ethno-regional parties in Serbia
Yuxiang Lin	Between Enduring and Split: Explaining the Fate of Bulgaria's Ethnic Turkish Party DPS
Jordan Jorgji	Ethno-regional representation under pressure: the case of the Greek minority party in Albania
Nóra Baranyai	Trends In Electoral Support of Hungarian Ethnoregional Parties

16.55-17.15 Coffee break

17.15-18.55 SECTION 3 – PARADIPLOMACY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Chair: Ilona Pálné Kovács, ELTE CERS Institute for Regional Studies

Szymon Ostrowski, Oskar Stefański	Political Parties and Paradiplomacy: A Case Study of Scotland and Scottish National Party
Balázs Brucker	The Political Representation of Hungarian Communities Living in Neighbouring Countries in the European Parliament
Boyka Stefanova, Maria Spirova	Success, Failure, or Reinvention? The New Beginning of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms in Bulgarian Party Politics
Zsuzsanna Zsibók, Nóra Baranyai	Intraethnic Relations through Paradiplomacy: The Case of Hungarian Municipalities

19.00-21.00 Dinner (basement dining room of the Institute for Regional Research)

December 5, 2025

09.00-10.15 SECTION 4 – ELECTIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL AND ETHNOREGIONAL PARTIES

Chair: Balázs Vizi, ELTE CSS Institute for Minority Studies

Balázs Dobos	The parliamentary representation of minorities: presence, effectiveness, and the problem of evaluation
Firat Efe	Are We One Big Family? The Distinctiveness of Ethnoregionalist Party Family in Central and Eastern Europe
Ovidiu Vaida, Alexandru Mocernac	Minority Politics in Post-Communist Romania: The Case of the Union of Ukrainians

10.15-10.35 Coffee break

10.35-12.15 SECTION 5 – PROTODIPLOMACY: SECESSION AND INDEPENDENCE

Chair: Balázs Brucker, ELTE CERS Institute for Regional Studies

Nathalie Duclos	The Scottish National Party's evolving defence policy
Jacopo Viti	Candidatura d'Unitat Popular: a model of anti-capitalist and progressive regionalism
Krisztina Kurdi	Can South Tyrol become an independent state?" – New political parties and movements in South Tyrol
Balázs Vizi	Minority participation and parliamentary elections in Kosovo

12.15-12.35 Coffee break

12.35-13.50 SECTION 6 – POLITICAL ELITE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Chair: Nóra Baranyai, ELTE CERS Institute for Regional Studies

Petia Gueorguieva	The shattering development of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. On the Janus-Faced "party of Bulgarian Turks
Géza Barta	People Before Parties? Personalised Ethnoregional Representation in Upper Silesia
Gábor Mozga	The Political Positions of Ethnoregional Parties in Central and Eastern Europe

13.50-14.00 Closing remarks – Chair: Nóra Baranyai

- Ilona Pálné Kovács, president of the Hungarian Regional Science Association
- Jean-Michel De Waele, full professor (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Department of Political Studies/Cevipol)

The conference is co-organized by the ELTE CERS Institute for Regional Studies and the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Cevipol).

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