

THE IMPACT OF THE UKRAINE WAR ON MAJORITY-MINORITY RELATIONS & KIN-STATE – KIN MINORITY RELATIONS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Expert Workshop – Liverpool, 22 June 2022

University of Glasgow & Liverpool John Moores University

The workshop will discuss the impact of the war in Ukraine on the role of a kin-state on the one hand, and on the accommodation of kin-minority groups on the other. While at the start of the 2000s, a kin-state's trans-sovereign engagement was welcomed in so far as it protected and promoted the culture and identity of its co-ethnics abroad, in the last few years we witnessed an increased instrumentalisation of kin-state involvement.

For example, recent kin-state policies of Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechia were aimed at tackling domestic demographic crises by encouraging immigration to the kin-state, while Russia, Romania, and Poland in relation to its kin-minority in Lithuania, sought to achieve influence by using kin-minorities' disenchantment with home-states' minority accommodation as a pretext to engage in forms of hybrid intervention.

In the case of Russia, this instrumentalist intervention has now escalated to the point of initiating a full-blown inter-state war with Ukraine. Yet, at the same time, the escalation of war in Ukraine has seen other kin-states – notably Poland – place a new emphasis on humanitarian duties as part of their trans-sovereign engagement. This prompts us to ask whether the fallout from the war in Ukraine might serve to reduce the instrumentalization of kin-minorities by kin-states elsewhere in the region, and whether the current crisis provides an opportunity to strengthen the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations as a set of norms guiding the 'triadic' relationship between kin minorities and the respective states.

The Liverpool workshop is a follow-up event which is part of a wider project entitled 'Integration through Minority Participation: Addressing Challenges to Social Cohesion in Post-Covid Europe', implemented by the University of Glasgow and Liverpool John Moores University. The project features exchanges and collaborations with a range of academics and practitioners and is largely inspired by key HCNM and other international standards as they concern participation and integration, including the Lund, Ljubljana and Bolzano/Bozen recommendations, as well as other norms and instruments involving group accommodation at global and regional level.

The first expert event was held in March 2022 to discuss a wide range of issues of minority participation in relation to pluralism, decision-making, and cross-border matters, including the early developments in Ukraine.

The aim of the follow-up event in Liverpool is to deepen this debate with a specific focus on the real or potential implications of the war in Ukraine at the level of kin-state/kin-minorities involvement.

The workshop will consist of one hybrid session and will feature short, themed presentations followed by a roundtable discussion.

PROGRAMME

10.00-11.00 (11.00-12.00 CET)

Gaetano Pentassuglia & Federica Prina, LJMU and University of Glasgow

Welcome & Introduction

Gaetano Pentassuglia, LJMU

Historical Perspectives

Andreea Udrea, University of Glasgow/Royal Holloway

Kin-state - Kin minority Relations in Central and Eastern Europe: Recent Changes and Current Challenges

Roundtable Discussion

11.00-11.15 (12.00-12.15 CET) – Coffee Break

11.15-12.15 (12.15-13.15 CET)

Federica Prina and David Smith, University of Glasgow

Instrumentalisation as a Facet of Russia's Policy towards External Kin Minorities: Trends and Implications

Roundtable Discussion

12.15-12.30 (13.15-13.30) – Closing Remarks

Participants

Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Gaetano Pentassuglia, Liverpool John Moores University

Federica Prina, University of Glasgow

David Smith, University of Glasgow

Andreea Udrea, University of Glasgow/Royal Holloway

Andreea Cârstocea, European Centre for Minority Issues

Sergiu Constantin, Institute for Minority Rights, EURAC research

Stephanie Cramer Marsal, Independent Consultant

Ljubica Djordjević, European Centre for Minority Issues

Iulian Groza, Institute for European Policies and Reforms

Mariana Semenyshyn, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Sherrill Stroschein, University College London

Markku Suksi, Åbo Akademi University

Sinead Coakley, Liverpool John Moores University

Noémi Nagy, National University of Public Service