



## The Center for International and European Studies (CIES)

**Mission, Vision, and Objectives:** Our mission is to pursue applied, policy-oriented research and promote debate on the most pressing global geostrategic issues. Our vision is to become a leading institution in international affairs through research, trainings, and activities. Our objectives are to increase understanding, raise awareness, promote debate and enhance cooperation in our focus areas including **foreign policy, security, regional cooperation, governance, youth leadership, and sustainable development**, inter alia, with a geographical focus on the European Union, its Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods, the Black Sea Region, Turkey, South-eastern Europe, the wider Middle East, transatlantic relations, Greek-Turkish relations, and Asia.

**Expertise:** Our team is composed of an experienced director, 3 senior associates, 5 research associates, a project coordinator, and an office administrator. The team has broad experience in drafting project proposals, grants applications, planning communication and dissemination strategies, conducting both qualitative and quantitative research with qualitative, managing project financials, implementing project activities, organizing dissemination activities, and the writing and publication of reports.

**Successful Projects:** In order to empower **young leaders** for regional cooperation, the CIES organises the annual “International Neighbourhood Symposium” (INS) gathering the key stakeholders and young professionals from Europe’s Neighbourhoods since 2011. The CIES has reached to 270 young leaders via the INS who are actively engaged in promoting **regional cooperation**. Another annual project of the CIES on youth leadership and security is the “Greek-Turkish Young Leaders Symposium on Security” (GTYLS) that brings together since 2015 young Greeks and Turks aged to enhance cooperation and dialogue. In terms of **good governance**, the CIES has launched a new project titled “Striving for Good Governance: Civil Society Strengthening and Youth Empowerment” with the support of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands under the Matra Program. The CIES implemented in 2016 the project titled “CSO Cooperation across Borders” to support the triangular relationship between Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus (both communities) with the involvement of civil society experts. Additionally, the CIES realised in 2015 the project titled “Promoting Dialogue between Iran and Turkey through Good Governance and Civic Engagement” to strengthen the capability of youth and women with regard to civic engagement and good governance in Iran and Turkey. **Sustainable development** is becoming a significant area of research and study for the CIES. It recently launched a new initiative titled “Talking Development: The Glocal Approach, Global Goals & Local Solutions”. It comprises a series of periodic debates on each one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals while it also includes the launching of a *SDG Multi-Stakeholder Platform* in partnership with business and Civil Society Organizations. Its most recent research projects entitled “How Turkish Elites View Turkish Foreign Policy and Greek Turkish Relations”, “Quo Vadis the Eastern Mediterranean? Recommendations from Regional Security Experts”, and “The Atlantic Alliance and Turkey: Prospects for the Future” all have a **foreign policy** and **security** focus. All aforementioned projects have been held in cooperation with a number of international and national institutional partners and co-sponsors.

### Topics of interest:

**H2020 calls:** Societal Challenges in particular the calls for “Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies” (Governance-01-2019, SU-GOVERNANCE-10-2019); “Secure societies – protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens” (SU-BES01-2019, SU-DRS01-2019); and TRANSFORMATIONS-08-2019.

**Erasmus + calls:** Strategic Partnerships in the Field of Youth and Higher Education.

**COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology Call**

**Roles as a partner:** Active participation in project design and implementation, research, comprehensive data gathering and analysis, event management, dissemination, monitoring, and follow-up.

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