

PANEL 1: PROPOSED AS CLOSED PANEL TO IPSA, ON THE THEME OF THE WC 2020

HEAD: PETR JUST, METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY PRAGUE, CEPESA GS

TITLE: **National Populist Parties in Central Europe**

The electoral successes of national populist parties in (post-Communist) countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) as well as in many traditional Western European democracies in recent years have attracted the attention of political scientist in order to understand the new issues, policies and strategies behind the success of these parties and movements and possibly to re-examine the sources of nationalism and populism. Moreover national populism is often very closely connected with strong anti-EU sentiment, arguing that the EU's policies destroy the national states (with migration crisis being shown as one of the arguments for defending this statement), as well as criticizing the trends among some of the key political actors on the European level to create the European union as superstate. Many of the national populist actors claim that "power should be returned back to the hands of nation states," calling for limitations of powers of European Commission and strengthening the European Council and Council of European union instead. These are common features among many Central European populist parties that are currently at power, for example in the Czech Republic, Poland or Hungary. The panel will examine different aspects of contemporary national populism in the CEE as one of the complementary features of populist and protest political parties and movements. It will focus on the roots and causes of the national populism in this turbulent region, such as historical traumas (as one of very powerful factors), social and economic situation, crisis of traditional political parties and institutions, challenges to liberal democracy or the impact of social media.

PANEL 2: CO-ORGANIZED WITH RC47

HEAD: MIRO HAČEK, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA, CEPESA PRESIDENT

TITLE: **Populism in Central and Eastern Europe: The rise of populist political parties and leaders**

Populism – and its implications for political parties – is an increasingly global concern. In recent years, populist leaders have won elections in countries ranging from the United States, to Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Hungary, and others. This has led to a surge in interest in the impact of populism, both on the part of academics, and the public more broadly. There is significant tension between populist modes of political mobilization, which tend to focus on the charisma and individual appeal of the leader, and traditional understandings of representative democracy that privilege the role of political parties in representing the will of the public. Given this, panel will examine and analyse the growing influence of populist movements, with additional emphasis on countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). We will raise the questions about the continued relevance of political parties and leaders in populist political environment. Moreover, it has become clear that populism is not a trend confined to a single region, but rather represents a challenge to traditional modes of doing politics in established democracies, new democracies, and countries on the cusp of democratic transition. It is also a trend that has spread across both the developed and the developing world, both traditional democracies of Western and Northern Europe and newish democracies of CEE. All of these factors make a panel focussed on the rise of populism and its impact on political parties and political leaders particularly appropriate and timely. National case studies from CEE region, as well as comparative perspective research including (part of) CEE region, are particularly welcomed.