

ENERGY – THREAT OR OPORTUNITY FOR EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE’S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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***Abstract:** The author briefly presents: Different national strategic approaches of energy security issues depending on the national security and economic interests of each European country; Effects of economic and political sanctions applied to Russian Federation by the democratic international community after violating the international law with its hybrid aggressive intervention in Ukraine; Alternative energy sources for the European Union. The role of Norway, Romania and the Western Balkan countries in the European energy security.*

***Key words:** energy, threat, opportunity, economic development, Eastern and Central Europe’s economic development.*

1.Introduction

It has become very difficult for any actor of the international community or specialized analyst of national or intergovernmental institutions to identify in the recent history a more tormented and complicated period than the one that the global society has been going through for the last five years. Global, regional and national military and social issues have been doubled by serious difficulties encountered by national states and regions in the energy security field.

As essential components of any economic activity, energy and energy capabilities become the most important arguments that partners, allies and adversaries use in the international peaceful negotiations, not only in commercial and finance areas, but also for determining occurrences, decisions and conclusions in chapters where the military used to have the

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