

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

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***Abstract:** The article aims to shows a synthetic analysis of the processes and strategies of the European countries that have granted a special priority to energy policies and security perspectives at the regional an especially at the national levels. The text highlights features and consequences of different national strategic approaches of energy security issues, taking into account the national security and economic interests of each European country, and continues by analyzing the controversial effects of the international economic sanctions applied to the Russian Federation and the similar sanction relief for Iran. The new opportunities given to Europe by the alternative energy sources for the European Union and the important part played by Norway, Romania and the Western Balkans countries are tackled in a very direct and objective manner, showing a realistic picture of a very tormented region of the world crossing a very complicated period.*

***Key Words:** region, agency, security, system, challenge, threat*

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 an essential component 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 domains where the military used to have the

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