

## **Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe**

Special Issue Call For Papers:

### ***“Europe’s Energy Realignment: Economic and Political Priorities amid the Eastern Divide Challenge”***

***Proposed Papers Submission Deadline: 15th of August 2025***

***Please email your questions or expressions of interest to [drajmil@uoc.edu](mailto:drajmil@uoc.edu)***

**Special issue guest editors:**

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#### **Special Issue Context**

The world economy faces significant challenges as alternative energy models are needed to enable an efficient transition from the global significant reliance on fossil fuels towards alternative energy sources. Countries’ fierce competition to secure access to strategic raw materials that support their energy models defines the international economic and political landscape. We are currently witnessing a heated debate because of the global competition for natural resources and their implications for countries’ strategic economic and political repositioning. Countries require a more balanced, responsible, and sustainable exploitation of natural reserves. The European energy model has been significantly exposed to Russia’s war against Ukraine, as energy supply security has severely been compromised due to the Russian government’s suspension of gas supplies to several EU member states, with energy prices reaching record highs in August 2022, impacting business operations and the cost of living (European Council, 2024).

Europe and other geographical regions are confronted with the need for an avid energy supply to satisfy their economic and social growth needs, which are heavily dependent on technological advances and progress. At present, the International Political Economy is defined by polarisation and rising levels of conflict, where we encounter political cleavages around a weakened European leadership defined by its complex and entangled relationship with Russia and characterised by the dominance of playing influence games that are challenging the projection of a common European energy policy. The complexity of the outlined context justifies the need for research studies that provide critical insights that help us gain a better understanding of the political and

economic divergence between Europe's wealthy economies, led by Germany's economic interests, and of major energy disruptions resulting from the escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian war in that revealed a significant divide between the richest European economies and those exhibiting lower levels of development. In the context of a new international landscape defined by the fast progress of protectionist policies amid political and economic pressures contributing to redefining economic integration agreements, the resilience and improvement of supply chains are key to achieving an expected global European green transition are aspects that need to be considered by academics, researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and relevant stakeholders. This special issue explores how ongoing challenges and changes affect economic, social, and political perspectives and developments in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region. The special issue thematic sections consider five core points as follows,

- Theoretical frameworks and key debates, including foundational economics and political science principles to understand Europe's energy realignment.
- Case studies show recent advancements in econometrics and data science techniques applied to analysing European energy policy that integrates economic and political issues.
- Ethical, social, and political implications of European Energy Policy and their environmental implications.
- Examine the broader implications of European Energy policy for policy-makers, practitioners, and relevant stakeholders.
- Assess pressing global challenges on energy policy by highlighting the interplay between economics and politics and their implications for policy, governance, and economic development.

Contributions that propose novel frameworks, innovative methodologies, or emerging perspectives aligned with the special issue's interest are encouraged, provided they offer meaningful insights into Europe's energy realignment amid these complex challenges.

### **Submission Instructions**

Preference will be given to submissions that focus on the Central and East European Countries. This special issue aims to bring a critical perspective examining the European energy model and its economic sustainability within a complex political context that integrates different economic and political interests. Special issue guest editors are especially keen on interdisciplinary approaches. Submission of full papers should be done through the journal system.

### **3. Special Issue Timeline**

Abstracts and expressions of interest: 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2025

Submission deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Publication: End 2025