ICEUR has the pleasure to announce the launch of a new program of seminars called OUTCOMES focused on specific topics of great Relevance. The appointments will be finalized to analyze the issue and identify a package of solutions aimed at achieving the goals.

The crisis in and around the Ukraine adumbrates short and medium term changes in EU-Russian relations. At the same time, the crisis maps global and regional long-term trends as well as structural arrangement such as US strategies to preserve its hegemonic position, Russian insistence to control the great Western plain and the Caucasus or the helplessness of the European Union to reconcile its proclaimed values with the economic interests of its member states.

A specific pattern of the interplay between politics and business has evolved since 1991. As East European economies crowded into EU markets and commercial exchange skyrocketed, politics increasingly assumed enabling and supporting functions for business.

The economic costs of sanctions are set off against possible political gains. Sanctions and increasing controls jeopardize not only business interests, but also impose severe constraints on the exchange of people and ideas and thus decrease the political options even further.

Should business, against the backdrop of an incapacitated Union, shoulder political responsibility and take the lead in shoring up and developing the crisis-riddled relationship? Should the European lead nations resist transatlantic pressures and “Europeanize” the problem? Or should one just muddle through, hope for the best and plan for the worst?

Objectives of the Seminar:

- To familiarize a Western audience with authentic Russian views on sanctions and business prospects of the Eurasian Union.
- To examine relevant business practices on the ground
- To assess the capacities of European business to stabilize the political environment
- To develop a package of smart strategies beyond traditional lobbying
- To draft a manifesto including policy recommendations

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