



## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CONGRESS-2024

# CHANGING STRATEGIC SECURITY LANDSCAPE IN THE BLACK SEA AND THE BALKANS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

30-31 MAY 2024 - Kemal Gözükara Campus

### AIM AND SCOPE

In the last few years, radical changes have occurred in the strategic security environment of the Black Sea region and the Balkans. Russia's interventions in the region and invasion of Ukraine not only reshaped the security situation in the Black Sea region but also increased concerns in the Balkans. These developments have changed these regions' importance and key regional players' roles for European and global security. While the Black Sea was rarely considered among the world's most important strategic spaces, Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has shifted the Black Sea region from the periphery to the center of the Euro-Atlantic security processes. The war also indicated that the Black Sea region should be considered not separately but as closely connected to the Balkans and as a part of the whole European security system.

As the current situation shows, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has negatively affected the already fragile stability in the Western Balkans. The region faces new troubles. Bosnia and Herzegovina is confronted with calls for secession in the autonomous Serb-dominated entity, Republika Srpska. There exist grievances of the Croat population living in the Federation as well. Meanwhile, efforts to resolve Serbia-Kosovo dispute have come to a standstill, tensions brew anew between the two sides which make minority communities on both sides of the border vulnerable to a possible renewed conflict. Moreover, regional instability is also deteriorating as a result of the increasing disagreements between Türkiye and Greece in the Aegean and in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Against this backdrop, İstanbul Arel University will hold a face-to-face international congress on 30-31 May 2024. The Congress's main theme is "Changing Strategic Security Landscape in the Black Sea and the Balkans: Challenges and Opportunities". The Congress aims to analyze the current challenges, risks, threats, and opportunities in the Black Sea region and the Balkans, explore future dynamics, and evaluate possible scenarios. The two-day congress is planned to examine the emerging strategic security landscape in the Black Sea region and the Balkans, explore the military and non-military threat perceptions of the states and peoples, discuss policies of global and regional actors and their roles in providing security, and assess the role of international/regional institutions to meet new challenges and threats.

**CONGRESS HOST:** İstanbul Arel University



## CONGRESS PARTNERS:

- İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye
- Angel Kanchev University of Ruse/Bulgaria
- The Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences- Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași/Romania
- The Department of International Relations- The Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences of İstanbul Arel University
- İstanbul Arel University International Strategic Researches Center/Türkiye

**VENUE:** İstanbul Arel University

## CONGRESS CALENDAR

Publication of the call for paper:	19 January 2024
*Deadline for submission of abstracts:	22 March 2024
Reporting accepted abstracts	22 April 2024
Publication of the Congress flow program:	2 May 2024
<b>Congress date:</b>	30-31 May 2024
Submission of full papers:	30 June 2024
*Publication of the Congress proceedings e book:	14 September 2024

\*Abstracts should be prepared using the abstract submission template and should be sent to arelusam03@gmail.com by e-mail. The abstracts of the Congress will be published electronically in Congress abstract e-book with an ISBN number.

\*\*The full papers of the Congress will be published electronically in Congress proceedings e-book with an ISBN number.



## CONGRESS THEMES and TOPICS FOR PAPERS

**Main Theme-1:** Emerging Strategic Security Landscape in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans

Sub-themes to present papers:

- Impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on regional stability
- Energy crisis in Europe and Refugees
- Future scenarios
- Other subjects related to the main theme

**Main Theme-2:** Military threat perceptions of the states in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans

Sub-themes to present papers:

- Spread of war
- Possible regional points of conflict: (The future of B-H, Kosovo dispute, Albanian-Macedonian relations in Northern Macedonia.)
- Terrorism
- Nuclear threats, chemicals, bioweapons
- Other subjects related to the main theme

**Main Theme-3:** Non-military threats

Sub-themes to present papers:

- Hybrid threats including cyber threats
- Criminal threats
- Mass migration, energy insecurity, food shortages, and environmental pollution.
- Other subjects related to the main theme

**Main Theme-4:** Policies of global actors and their roles in providing security

Sub-themes to present papers:

- USA policies and their roles
- Chinese policies and their roles
- Russian policies and their roles
- EU policies and their roles
- Other subjects related to the main theme



**Main Theme-5:** Foreign policies of regional countries and their role in providing security

**Sub-themes to present papers:**

- Policies of regional countries
- Bilateral and multilateral attempts
- Other subjects related to the main theme

**Main Theme-6:** Role of international institutions to meet new challenges and threats

**Sub-themes to present papers:**

- EU's policies and their roles
- NATO's options, future of NATO's relations with Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan
- Role of OSCE as a platform to sustain security architecture
- Possibility of the revival of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
- Possibility of new partnerships

**CONGRESS ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE**

Prof. Dr. Harun DEMİRKAYA, İstanbul Arel University, Dean of Faculty Economic and Administrative Sciences, Türkiye

Prof. C. Uğur ÖZGÖKER, İstanbul Arel University, International Relations, Türkiye

Prof. Oktay BİNGÖL, İstanbul Arel University, International Relations, Türkiye (Coordinator)

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Assoc. Prof. Aslı KELKİTLİ, İstanbul Arel University, Political Sciences and Public Administration (Executive Chairperson)

Assoc. Prof. Kremena RAYANOVA, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Dean of Faculty of Law, Bulgaria, krayanova@uni-ruse.bg

Assoc. Prof. Vanya PANTELEEVA, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, International affairs of Faculty of Law- vpanteleeva@uni-ruse.bg

Assist. Prof. Elena-Simona VRÂNCEANU, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi-Romania Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences, Department of Political Sciences, International Relations and European Studies, elena.vranceanu@uaic.ro

Assist. Prof. Lyuboslav LYUBENOV, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Criminal Law Department, Bulgaria, lvlyubenov@uni-ruse.bg

Dr. Yunus KARAAĞAÇ, İstanbul Arel University, International Strategic Research Center, Türkiye



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
DEPARTMENT



Elkhan MEHDIYEV, Azerbaijan Atlantic Council, Baku, Azerbaijan

Res. Asst. Deniz KAYNAK, İstanbul Arel University, International Relations, Türkiye

Res. Asst. Elif ÜÇERLİ, İstanbul Arel University, International Relations, Türkiye

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Prof. Dr Besfort RRECAJ, University of Prishtina, Department of International Law, Kosovo

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Assoc. Prof. Milen IVANOV, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Head of Department of Security, Bulgaria

Assoc. Prof. Velizar SHALAMANOV, Institute of ICT, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Security Sector Expert, Bulgaria

Assist. Prof. Krasimir KOEV, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Department of Security, Bulgaria

Assist. Prof. Pavlin KODZHARISTOV, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Department of Security, Bulgaria



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
DEPARTMENT



Assist. Prof. Selma ŞEKERCİOĞLU BOZACIOĞLU, İstanbul Arel University, International Relations, Türkiye

Assist. Prof. Todor KODZHEYKOV, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Department of Security, Bulgaria

Assist. Zoltan Gyorgy BACS, Ludovika University of Public Service, National Security Institute, Budapest, Hungary.

Dr Aida BAGIROVA, Baku State University, Azerbaijan

Dr Victor KORENOVICH - National Defense University of Ukraine

Mr. Kakha GOGOLASHVILI, Director of EU Studies, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, Georgia

Mr. Serhiy DZHERDZH, Head at NATO-Ukraine Civic League, Ukraine



## ANNEX-A: Paper Proposal Form

- The form should be written in Palatino Linotype, 11 points and 1,08 line spacing.
- The abstract should be a minimum of 400 and a maximum of 500 words.
- An author can apply to congress with a maximum of two papers. For each proposal, one form is to be filled out.
  - In papers with more than one author, a single form will be filled. The required fields for each information box should be filled starting from the first author's information.
- All fields below are required to be filled. Otherwise, the paper proposal will not be accepted.
- All the abstracts will be peer-reviewed.
- Send your proposal to [arelusam03@gmail.com](mailto:arelusam03@gmail.com)

First Author, Name and Surname:	University /Organization:
Department:	Title:
E-mail:	GSM: ( )+ _____

Second Author, Name and Surname:	University /Organization:
Department:	Title:
E-mail:	GSM: ( )+ _____

The title of the paper:
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Abstract
(You can enlarge this section)
The abstract should include in summary: The main thesis of the paper, the importance of the subject, the content of the paper (main and sub-discussion points, the methodology used, and the outcome).

Keywords: (Four keywords)
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The main thesis of the paper:
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You can enlarge all sections if needed.





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**International Security Congress-2024**

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Bu belge, güvenli elektronik  
Evrak sorgulaması <https://t>

 **30-31 MAY 2024**  
Face to Face

 İstanbul Arel University Kemal Gözükara Campus



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