**Course Description**

Course lectures and discussions will be organized around two main topics.

***Week I*** will establish the factual and methodological framework for the discussion of energy policy and (de)regulation in CEE. The week will conclude with a debate on energy sector restructuring options for CEE economies.

***Week II*** will focus on the future of nuclear power and its alternatives in the region, with a special emphasis on improving energy efficiency, and will conclude with a debate on this topic.

Among the many specific questions raised by the energy challenges facing the CEE region that the course will address are:

- What is the current state of the energy systems -- what are the existing technologies, economics and environmental impacts?
- Why do these economies need several times as much primary energy to produce a unit of economic output, as developed or even other developing economies?  How does it affect the economy, and how could these high energy intensities be effectively reduced?
- Is nuclear power the most viable option to meet the energy demands of these economies and to satisfy their desires for national sovereignty, or are there alternatives that can effectively and more sustainably meet the needs of the region?
- Given the cultural, political and economic context, what kinds of market and regulatory structures will best facilitate the multiple, and often conflicting, energy-related objectives of the CEE region?
- What are the likely outcomes of the current trend to privatization in the energy sector in the CEE – is private ownership likely to improve either the economic or environmental performance of these sectors?
- What is the appropriate role for the CEE nations to play vis-à-vis global environmental concerns such as climate change – can these nations afford to address climate change, can they afford not to?
- What should be the fate of existing unsafe nuclear facilities, and should the nuclear power plants in the pipeline, mostly designed in the ‘70s, be completed?
- Are there lessons from the West that can be usefully transferred to the CEE? Which are the experiences that cannot be viably transferred? Which would be the most effective policy tools to achieve the region’s energy related objectives?

**Teaching Methods**
Since the course will rely on a dialogue between Eastern and Western experts, and on the experience and issues raised by course participants, the course will involve a variety of interactive teaching methods.  Besides lectures delivered by resource persons, time will be allowed for open discussions with all resource persons after lectures.  A three-hour debate will conclude both weeks of the course, involving several lecturers and all course participants.  In addition, a small number of course participants will be selected to deliver shorter seminars on topics related to the course.  An energy-efficiency internet workshop will also be held, where future internet collaborations will be suggested.