

Research Programme

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Associate Researchers:

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Topic: *Completion of the selection and development process of simple and composite indicators of the Geopolitical Pillars of: a) Economy and of b) Defense in the framework of the Systemic Geopolitical Analysis methodology.*

Programme duration: four (4) months: 1st November 2016-28 February 2017.

a. Proposal analysis- Research Outline

The coverage of one of the key methodological issues of the Systemic Geopolitical Analysis is the composition of Geopolitical Indicators, which will represent in the optimum and most comprehensive manner the influence of the Geopolitical Factor on the four Geopolitical Pylons/Pillars of Power: a) of Defence/Security b) of Economy c) of Politics d) of Culture/Information. In this research we will analyse compositions and options of Indicators for the Pillars (a) and (b)

Table of Terminology and Definitions

Geographical area. Geography is "the science that describes and analyzes the natural space and its dialectical formulations with human societies, which constitute the Human Areas. The productions of these dialectical processes are defined as primary, secondary and tertiary geographical areas "(Mazis, 2002) (Mazis, 2012).

System is the exact aggregate of the territorial units that comprise the geopolitical sub-systems, which are identified by localization, the prominent action and the systematic and prominent function of the geopolitical factor in their natural space (Mazis, 2002) (Mazis, 2012).

Complex is, largely, the broader geographical unit of the system (Mazis, 2002) (Mazis, 2012).

Supra System is the aggregate of the international poles of power that affect the function of the geopolitical factors within the sub-systems and the corresponding system, which encompasses them. (Mazis, 2002) (Mazis, 2012).

Sub-system is the homogeneous, as to the function of a geopolitical factor, territorial unit (Mazis, 2002) (Mazis, 2012).

Geopolitical indicator is the quantification of the subject under study, the arithmetic element that indicates the redistribution of power in the System/Complex.

It is defined as: Geopolitical indicator $\Gamma\Delta t = d(t)/D$, where $d(t)$ is the measured magnitude at time t , and $D =$ a level of definition of each indicator $d(t)$. The geopolitical indicators can be *composite* or simple. (See “About geopolitical indicators I. Th. Mazis - A. Stogiannos) (Mazis, 2012). The matter of Indicators, which is explicitly analysed in this the research, will focus on: a) Database: Gradual organization and technical criteria for the selection of indicators, b) Stages of database organization:

Stage A: Selection of Indicators.

Stage B: Organization/Set up of a practical data system i) Decision on the selection of a data collection method ii) Collaboration with users and data providers in order to establish standards, aiming at the production of comparable data.

Stage C: Presentation of the comparative data of the indicators i) Design of the presentation form ii) Data collection and processing iii) Presentation of the indicators¹. The application (Case Study) will be performed on the Geopolitical System of the warring Syria.

¹ Blank K., Rolf, Developing a System of Education Indicators: Selecting, Implementing, and Reporting Indicators, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Spring 1993, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 67