




The Politics of Shale Gas in Eastern Europe

Fracking is a novel but contested energy technology – so what makes some countries embrace it while others reject it? This book argues that the reason for policy divergence lies in procedures and processes, stakeholder inclusion and whether a strong narrative underpins governmental policies. Based on a large set of primary data gathered in Poland, Bulgaria and Romania, it explores shale gas policies in Central Eastern Europe (a region strongly dependent on Russian gas imports) to unveil the importance of policy regimes for creating a ‘social licence’ for fracking. Its findings suggest that technology transfer does not happen in a vacuum, but is subject to close mutual interaction with political, economic and social forces; and that national energy policy is a matter not of ‘objective’ policy imperatives, such as Russian import dependence, but of complex domestic dynamics pertaining to institutional procedures and processes, and winners and losers.

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The Politics of Shale Gas in Eastern Europe

Energy Security, Contested Technologies
and the Social Licence to Frack

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Abbreviations

ANRE	Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority
bcm	billion cubic metres
BEH	Bulgaria Energy Holding
BFIEC	Bulgarian Federation of the Industrial Energy Consumers
BRUA	Bulgaria–Romania–Hungary–Austria interconnector
CEE	Central Eastern Europe
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
COMECON	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
E&P	exploration and production
EEA	European Economic Area
EIA	Energy Information Agency
ENTSO-G	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ETS	EU Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
EWRC	Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (Bulgaria)
FSU	Former Soviet Union
GDOS	General Directorate for Environmental Protection (Poland)
GDP	gross domestic product
GECF	Gas Exporting Countries Forum
GHG	greenhouse gas
GISC	Civil Society Initiative Group (Grupul de Inițiativă al Societății Civile) (Romania)
IBR	Romania–Bulgaria Interconnector
IEA	International Energy Agency
IGB	Interconnector Greece–Bulgaria
IMF	International Monetary Fund

IOC	international oil company
LNG	liquefied natural gas
LTC	long-term contract
MEE	Ministry of Economy and Energy (Bulgaria)
MEW	Ministry of Environment and Water (Bulgaria)
MMBtu	one million British thermal units
MWh	megawatt hours
NAMR	National Agency for Mineral Resources (Romania)
NAPM	National Agency for Environmental Protection (Romania)
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIMBY	not in my backyard
NOC	national oil company
NOKE	National Operator of Energy Minerals (Narodowy Operator Kopalni Energetycznych) (Poland)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PGI	Polish Geological Institute
PiS	Law and Justice Party (Poland)
PKE	Polish Ecological Club (Poland)
PO	Civic Platform (Poland)
PSD	Social Democratic Party (Romania)
RDOS	Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection (Poland)
RIEW	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water (Bulgaria)
R/P ratio	reserves-to-production ratio
SLO	social licence to operate
TANAP	Trans-Anatolian Pipeline
TAP	Trans-Adriatic Pipeline
Tcf	trillion cubic feet
TRC	Texas Railroad Commission
TSO	transmission system operator
TTIP	Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
UOKiK	Office for Competition & Consumer Protection (Poland)
URE	Energy Regulatory Office (Poland)