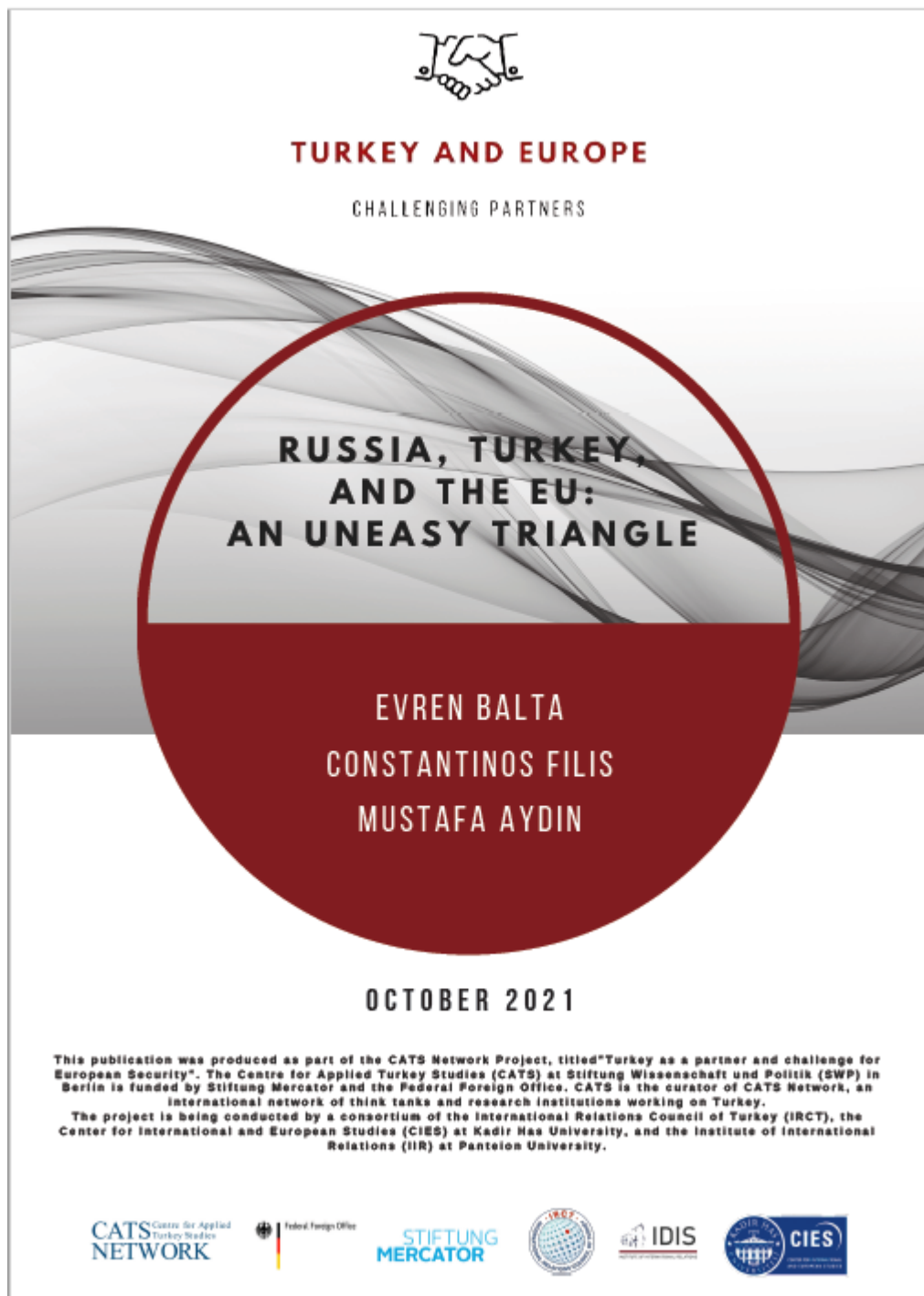


Russia, Turkey and the EU: An Uneasy Triangle



Historically, Russia and Turkey have both been outsiders and challengers to Europe, though it would be impossible to understand European history without considering their impact and their attempts at times to become “European”.

During most of the 20th century, too, they remained on Europe's periphery, Turkey aligning with the West (including Western Europe) and Russia aligning with and dominating Eastern Europe. The end of the Cold War, however, saw Europe's unification at long last, with most of the Central and Eastern Countries joining the European Union (EU) and NATO. Yet Turkey and Russia remained outside this process, though with Turkey's continued membership of NATO and up to now unsuccessful bid to become a full EU member. While both tried to varying degrees to work (integrate) with Europe during the 1990s, once again with a varying degree of success, they grew apart from Europe during the 2000s for different reasons. Nevertheless, they still impact European developments, both positively and negatively, while their own political and international developments are also influenced by what happens in Europe. In short, their future developments remain entangled in an uneasy triangle.

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