



PROGRAMME

**SOCIAL, POLITICAL & ECONOMIC
CHANGE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

**THURSDAY, 28 MAY – FRIDAY, 29 MAY, 2015
OHRID, MACEDONIA**

Conference Objectives

- To provide opportunities for researchers dealing with the region to meet, network, exchange and discuss their research projects and results;
- To discuss the challenges, contradictions and ambivalences in the transformation process in the Balkans from the social science perspective;
- To discuss potential areas that may be addressed to more effectively influence policy development with the aid of scientific research results.

Location:

Hotel Inex-Gorica, Ohrid, Macedonia

Programme:

Jasmina Opardija-Susnjar, University of Fribourg &
Magdalena Solska, University of Fribourg

Organisation:

Arta Jusufi, Slavica Indzevska, Foundation Open Society Macedonia &
Ann Killer, Arbesa Shehu-Gremaud, University of Fribourg

Follow-up information:

www.rppp-westernbalkans.net/en/conferences/Annual-Conference-2015.html

Opening, Plenary Session:

Welcome and Introduction:

9:00 – 9:30

- **Stefano Lazzarotto**, Swiss Ambassador to Macedonia
Welcome, "Social Science Research and Policy Dialogue"
- **Vladimir Milcin**, Director, Foundation Open Society – Macedonia
- **Nicolas Hayoz**, RRPP Programme Director, University of Fribourg

Keynote:

9:30 – 10:00

- **"Of Godfathers and Scarfaces"**
The Authoritarian Backlash in the Western Balkans
- **Jelena Dzankic**, Marie Curie Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy
- **Soeren Keil**, Senior Lecturer in International Relations at Canterbury Christ Church University, United Kingdom

Panel:

10:00 – 11:30

Balkans at the Crossroads: Between Democratisation and Authoritarian Tendencies

Moderator: **Andreas Ernst**, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Speakers:

- **Florian Bieber**, Professor of Southeast European Studies, Director of the Centre for Southeast European Studies at the University of Graz, Austria
- **Danijela Majstorovic**, Associate Professor of Linguistics and Cultural Studies at the University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Jasna Koteska**, Professor of Literature, Gender Studies and Theoretical Psychoanalysis at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia
- **Dimitar Bechev**, Adjunct, London School of Economics, European Institute
- **Marko Kmezic**, Senior researcher at the Centre for Southeast European Studies at the University of Graz, Austria
- **Vedran Dzihic**, Senior researcher at the University of Vienna, Austria

11:30 – 12:00

Plenary Discussion

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 17:30

Workshops

WORKSHOPS DAY 1:		Democratization: Internal and External Dimensions Dimitar Bechev; Florian Bieber; Adam Fagan; Soeren Keil	Decentralisation and Governance Claire Gordon; Simon Hug; Daniel Bochsler; Nenad Stojanovic	State Capacity, Institutions and Informality Vedran Dzihic; Drini Imami; Arben Hajrullahu; Nicolas Hayoz	Social Disparities and Welfare State Barbara Lucas; Simone Baglioni; Danijela Majstorovic; Michael Roy	Migration Flows, Social Capital and Remittances Jelena Dzankic; Geoffrey Pugh; Lantona Sado; Robert Pichler
13:30 – 14:15	Cvjeticanin, Tijana Bosnia and Herzegovina Communication Practices in the Context of Social Uprisings and Requests for Public Accountability RRPP Regional Project Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia	Kmezic, Sanja Serbia Impact of Fiscal Decentralisation on Local Economic Development in Serbia and Montenegro RRPP Regional Project Serbia, Montenegro	Merkaj, Elvina Albania The Role of Politics and Networking in the Distribution of Regional Development Fund – The Case of Albanian Local Government Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy	Agolli, Ariola Albania Challenges and Opportunities for Employment of Marginalized Groups by Social Enterprises RRPP Regional Project Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo	Stankovic, Mirjana Macedonia Brain Gain in Southeast Europe: Mission (Im)Possible? International Institute for Knowledge and Innovation Washington D.C.	
14:15 – 15:00	Karabegovic, Dzeneta; Hasic, Jasmin Bosnia and Herzegovina Contentious Politics of Citizen-led Movements on Subnational Scale: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina University of Warwick; Free University of Brussels	Nikaj, Bernard Kosovo Building Functioning Rule of Law Institutions through Information and Communication Technology: Lessons from Kosovo University of Prishtina	Tomic, Slobodan; Taseva, Slagjana Serbia; Macedonia Are Regulatory Agencies in Serbia and Macedonia Transparent and Accountable? RRPP Regional Project Serbia, Macedonia	Kotevska, Ana; Papic, Ruzica Macedonia; Serbia The Impact of Socio-economic Structure of Rural Population on Success of Rural Development Policy RRPP Regional Project Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sinani, Entela Albania Internal Migration and Value Transformation in Albania University of Genoa	
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU FINISH AND START SESSIONS ON TIME SO THAT THE OTHERS CAN JOIN FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DISCUSSIONS!					
15:15 – 16:00	Wunsch, Natasha Germany Improving Governance from Below: Transnational Diffusion of Civil Society Mobilization in Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro University College London	Kacani, Jolta Albania Industrial Policy as an Instrument of Political Decentralisation and Regional Integration: The Case of Albania Polytechnic University of Catalonia Barcelona	Djindjic, Milos Serbia Performance Audit and Policy Evaluation: On the Same or Parallel Tracks? RRPP Regional Project Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro	Kotevska, Biljana; Anchevska, Elena Macedonia (In)equality in Social Protection: Multi-level Analysis of Intersectionality in Social Assistance Provision – A Comparative Study RRPP Regional Project Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Caro, Erka; Xhaho, Armela Albania, Kosovo Industrial Citizenship and Migration from the Western Balkans: Migration from Albania and Kosovo towards Greece, Germany and Switzerland RRPP Regional Project Albania, Kosovo	
16:00 – 16:45	Pavlovic, Aleksandar Serbia Figuring Out the Enemy: Re-imagining Serbian-Albanian Relations RRPP Regional Project Serbia, Albania, Kosovo	Calu, Marius Romania Post-independence Kosovo: Managing Diversity and Building Social Cohesion at Central and Local Levels of Governance Queen Mary, University of London	Uberti, Luca; Pire, Ergent Italy; Kosovo Rents and Rent-Seeking in Neo-Patrimonial Democracies: An Econometric Approach to Measuring Corruption RRPP Regional Project Kosovo, Albania	Alacovska, Ana Macedonia 'Raki Casks', 'Coffins Gone Astray' and 'Mad Cows': The Psycho-social Dynamics of Creative Work in the Post-communist Balkans RRPP Regional Project Macedonia, Albania	Porobic, Selma; Volarevic, Sinisa Bosnia and Herzegovina; Serbia Engendering Forced Migration, Socio-political Transition and Mental Health in BiH, Serbia and Kosovo RRPP Regional Project Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo	
16:45 – 17:30	Stavrevska, Elena Macedonia Class and Spaces of Peace: Stories from Post-war and Post-socialist Bosnia and Herzegovina Central European University Budapest			Gigoja, Danica Serbia Gender Stereotypes in New Media: Serbian Pride on the Web RRPP Regional Project Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia	Lazarevik, Vladimir; Koduzi, Gazmend Macedonia; Albania Migration of Health Care Workers from Western Balkans – Analysing Causes, Consequences and Policies RRPP Regional Project Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania	
18:00 – 19:00	Free Session on "How to get Published", <i>Publication Ideas, Special Issue Proposals</i>. Adam Fagan, Editor, East European Politics (Taylor and Francis)					
20:00	Gala Dinner, Hotel Inex-Gorica					

09:00 – 10:30

Panel: **Shifting to Evidence-Based Policy Making: Where and What to Start With?**

Moderator: **Eoin Young**, International Centre for Policy Advocacy (ICPA)

Connecting with the themes of the plenary sessions on day 1, this panel seeks to address the role of the researcher and research evidence in policy making in the region through a discussion of the following questions:

Where do we stand now? – What can be expected from researchers and research institutions? – What are the capacities and interests of governments to embark on this dialogue? – Which other actors (interest groups) are necessary to bring forward changes?

Speakers

1. **Erwan Fouere**, Center for European Policy Studies, Brussels, Belgium
2. **Bosiljka Vukovic-Simonovic**, Head of the Division for Climate Change and Air Quality at Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro
3. **Ivan Sekulovic**, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Serbia
4. **Nermin Oruc**, Migration Expert, Bosnia-Herzegovina

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU FINISH AND START SESSIONS ON TIME SO THAT THE OTHERS CAN JOIN FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DISCUSSIONS!

WORKSHOPS DAY 2:

Democratization: Internal and External Dimensions

Dimitar Bechev; Florian Bieber; Adam Fagan; Soeren Keil

Decentralisation and Governance

Claire Gordon; Simon Hug; Daniel Bochsler; Nenad Stojanovic

State Capacity, Institutions and Informality

Vedran Dzihic; Drini Imami; Arben Hajrullahu; Nicolas Hayoz

Social Disparities and Welfare State

Barbara Lucas; Simone Baglioni; Danijela Majstorovic; Michael Roy

Migration Flows, Social Capital and Remittances

Jelena Dzankic; Geoffrey Pugh; Lantona Sado; Robert Pichler

11:00 – 11:45

Subasic, Mate
Croatia

Institutional Requirements for Implementation of EU Accession Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina

University of Zagreb

Marcic, Sinisa
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Doing Magic Reforms of Public Administration in the Western Balkans: Turning a Vicious Circle into a Virtuous Circle

University of New South Wales

Pesic, Jelena; Stanojevic, Dragan
Serbia

Informal Practices of Capturing Economic Resources by Political Elites: Exploring Party Patronage in Kosovo and Serbia

RRPP Regional Project
Serbia, Kosovo

Ceriman, Jelena; Luci, Nita
Serbia; Kosovo

Gender that Matters: Poverty and Social Inclusion – Social Protection Status in Rural Kosovo and Serbia

RRPP Regional Project
Serbia, Kosovo

Duci, Veronika
Albania

They Went Without Work, They Return Without a Pension: The Case of Albanian Returned Migrants

University of Tirana

11:45 – 12:30

Mendelski, Martin
Germany

The EU's Pathological Power: The Failure of External Rule of Law Promotion in the Western Balkans and Beyond

University of Trier

Xhumari, Merita
Albania

Strengthening Local Government Structures and their Cooperation in Albania

University of Tirana

Kapidzic, Damir; Stojanovic, Boban
Bosnia and Herzegovina; Serbia

Balkan Electoral Comparative Study: Impact of Personal Vote on Internal Party Democracy

RRPP Regional Project
Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo

Zhllima Edvin; Imami, Drini
Albania

Rural Women's Access to Land and Property Rights in Albania

Agriculture Economist, Tirana

Oruc, Nermin
Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Effect of Remittances on Education in Bosnia-Herzegovina

International University of Sarajevo

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 14:45

Crouch, Graeme
Canada

Bridging the Gap: Non-Governmental Actors (NGAs) and Serbia's EU Ambitions.

University of Victoria

Zdeb, Aleksandra
Poland

Good Governance in Mostar and Brčko: Externally-driven Power-sharing on the Local Level

Jagiellonian University in Krakow

Hodzic, Edin; Rexha, Albana
Bosnia and Herzegovina; Kosovo

Courts as Policy Makers? Examining the Role of Constitutional Courts as Agents of Change in the Western Balkans

RRPP Regional Project
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia

Dibra, Sidita; Gerdoci, Blendi
Albania

Toward a Gender Responsive and Performance Oriented Vocational Education System

University of Tirana

Babic, Bojana; Mujaric, Mirza
Serbia; Bosnia and Herzegovina

Social Capital, Migration, Entrepreneurship – Evidence from a Post-conflict Environment

RRPP Regional Project
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia

14:45 – 15:30

Parramore, Sean
Netherlands

Lessons (not) Learnt? The EU Anti-corruption Strategy in the Western Balkans

Queen Mary University of London

Jovanovic, Olja; Brankovic, Marija
Serbia

From Inclusive Identities to Inclusive Societies: Exploring Complex Social Identity in Western Balkans

RRPP Regional Project
Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo

Dhembo, Elona
Albania

Public Administration and Good Governance in Albania: Between Politics and Citizens

University of Tirana

Pranvera, Elezi
Albania

Albanian Returned Migrants Integration into Labour Market: Do Their Gained Skills and Experiences Match with the Labour Market Demand in Albania?

Albanian Institute of Statistics, Tirana

Petreski, Blagica; Vrapci, Alba
Macedonia; Albania

Migration as Social Protection: Analysis of Macedonian, Albanian and Serbian Remittance-receiving Households

RRPP Regional Project
Macedonia, Albania, Serbia

15:30 – 16:15

Presentation of a new SDC-funded programme in the area of social sciences – PERFORM **Martin Dietz**

16:15

Closure

Regional Research

Promotion Programme | Western Balkans

The Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (RRPP) is managed by the University of Fribourg upon mandate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It was established with the purpose to advance research in the social sciences in the Western Balkans and to assist its internationalisation. This partnership programme was created following a wide consultation process involving well-respected researchers and research institutions in the region, Switzerland and other European countries. The RRPP operates through several inter-related pillars:

1. Provision of grants for research projects dealing with issues related to the transition process in individual countries and in the entire region;
2. Provision of methodological colloquia and thematic trainings;
3. Enabling and strengthening regional interaction and cooperation.
4. Implementing Policy Dialogues that are aimed at influencing necessary systemic changes in social science research, while involving a number of relevant stakeholders such as responsible ministries, rectors, deans, researchers from different disciplines and of different age, media, civil society organisations.

Main partner for logistics of the conference:



Other partners:

