

**Book of Abstracts**  
**RRPP Annual Conference**  
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# Workshop I: Democratization: Internal and External Dimensions

## Discussants

Dimitar Bechev, Oxford University/ London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Florian Bieber, University of Graz, Austria

Adam Fagan, London School of Economics – South East Europe Research, United Kingdom

Soeren Keil, Canterbury Christ Church University, United Kingdom

## Participants

**Name:** Tijana Cvjeticanin

**Institution:** University of Sarajevo

**RRPP Regional Project:** Communication Practices in the Context of Social Uprisings and Requests for Public Accountability

Although the lack of public accountability and overall dissatisfaction of citizens with the performance of the government(s) have been frequently reported on, citizen participation, as a central concept of a good governance, is still highly limited in the region of Western Balkans. Some of the reasons are apathy of citizens' i.e. democratic deficit, as well as underdeveloped culture of citizen protests after the long period of communist reign. Protests and social movements have rarely been in the repertoire of the citizen behaviour, but in the recent years we have witnessed several protests, initiatives and social uprisings in the region, through which the citizens demanded for government accountability and acted upon specific issues of public interests. Here we recognize the need to examine the communication practices during these social movements/ initiatives in order to understand how the government officials responded to the calls for accountability, what were the practices of citizens/activist in terms of promotion of the movement and its goals, and which role did the mainstream media take when reporting on the protests and social movements. We intent to employ the insights from media and communication studies, political science and social movement theories to explore the use of different communication

platforms, the framing discourses, as well as structural and contextual factors accompanying communication during the periods of social uprisings, protests and major civic initiatives in the region. We intend to explore the opportunities for activist engagement, especially in the context of increased relevance of ICT and social networking, but also to address the structural constraints, such as those that arise for example from the nature of mainstream media (with standards of newsworthiness and possible favouritism towards political elites), etc.

Research will expectedly contribute to better understanding of communication dynamics during the protests and social movements and will enable recommendations for improvements of communication practices of activists/citizens, government officials and media outlets, as an important tool of public accountability that can contribute to better government in three countries and beyond.

**Name:** Dzeneta Karabegovic and Jasmin Hasic

**Institution:** University of Warwick, Free University of Brussels

### **Contentious Politics of Citizen-led Movements on Subnational Scale: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

This paper seeks to compare the different local environments in which protest materialized and to analyze to what extent these mattered on the outcomes of citizen-led protests in early 2014. Though a salient issue when considering citizen mobilization and protest over the last few years, understanding and analysis of citizen-led movements and how they originate and maintain themselves is under-examined and under-theorized, particularly in post-conflict societies facing governance and corruption with highly horizontal power concentration. Through the use of process tracing and comparative analysis, this paper seeks to explain the different outcomes in selected sub-national movements based on recent protests using the case study of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The study will contribute to enhancing the level of understanding of local activist initiatives as well as the mobilization challenges faced in a highly horizontally concentrated power structure on a subnational or entity level. Further, it will address how elites responded to protests. This is particularly interesting to analyze and compare when considering the politically decentralized state structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The analysis of several salient local cases of activist movements in several sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to address two specific goals: (1) examining the correlation between horizontally concentrated power and citizen-led mobilization, as a form of contentious politics - its forms of existence, models of articulation, and overall sustainability of the resistance itself; (2) identifying whether norms were transferred as a result in order to encourage sustainable political change and facilitate the movements' overall advancement.

**Name:** Natasha Wunsch

**Institution:** University College London, United Kingdom

**Top-down EU Impact or Transnational Diffusion? Civil Society Mobilization in Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia**

This paper investigates a particular form of civil society mobilisation in the EU accession process, namely the creation of monitoring coalitions focused on rule of law issues. Despite widely varying models of civil society inclusion across the Western Balkans region, such coalitions have emerged in the majority of countries and share a number of characteristics. Comparing the cases of Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, the paper suggests that this situation cannot be explained by a traditional top-down Europeanisation approach alone, but is significantly shaped by the existence of transnational diffusion. Organisations learn from one another and adapt previous experiences to their specific national context. The close study of the emergence and development of monitoring coalitions in three separate cases offers a fuller picture of the factors influencing civil society mobilisation in accession countries and hold important lessons for the EU's involvement in strengthening NGOs on the ground.

**Name:** Aleksandar Pavlovic

**Institution:** University of Belgrade

**RRPP Regional Project: Figuring out the Enemy: Re-imagining Serbian-Albanian Relations**

The aim of my paper is to present a project "Figuring out the Enemy", which challenges the Serbian-Albanian hostility by reinvestigating contemporary events and discourses from the past and recent times. In particular, we seek to identify common views and practices that could deescalate the present enmity and promote cooperation. Our aim is to offer an alternative to present discourse of hostility between Serbs and Albanians. In order to contend the popular view of the centennial Serbian-Albanian hostility, our enquiry focuses on the different portrayals of their relationship in the oral tradition, early Balkan ethnography and diplomacy, and follows the change in their perceptions from the later part of the nineteenth century onwards. We hope to re-affirm common Serbian, Montenegrin and Albanian traditions such as folk oral songs and heroic narratives, which stem from a similar social background and shared patriarchal values among these ethnic groups, as well as contemporary writers, scholars and initiatives that emphasize the similarities, shared values and cooperation among Serbs and Albanians.

**Name:** Elena Stavrevska

**Institution:** Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary

### **Class and Spaces of Peace: Stories from Post-war and Post-socialist Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The hegemonic framework used both for policymaking and analysis not only of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), but also of the post-war period, remains one driven by the logic of 'groupism'. The term refers to the tendency to approach groups, including ethnic groups, as the basic units of analysis and main protagonists in social life, with interests and agency as their attributes. This underlying logic was reflected in the Dayton Agreement, which concluded the war. The Constitution of BiH, adopted as part of the Agreement, stipulates that the country has three constituent peoples, those being the three ethnic groups (Bosniacs, Serbs and Croats), which share the political power. This has set the basis for ethnicity to become the single most important category in the Bosnian society. Ethnicity is currently the dominant centre of power, superior even to the state. As a result, we witness a process of spatialisation of ethnicity and (re)creation of ethnically conceived spaces that further the divisions. Through the analysis of different intersubjectivities, notably of people living with (komšiluk) and beside each other (citizens' plenums), this paper moves beyond the ethnonational discussion and focuses on issues of socio-economic status and historical structures of class. The role that socio-economic issues play in the post-war and importantly the post-socialist period has not received much scholarly attention. This is particularly so due to the dominant assumption in conflict analysis that the war wiped everything clean, including class differentiation. Evidence, however, suggests that conflict accelerates class formation and social strata differentiation. The paper thus argues that these processes and issues of class can, in fact, contribute to the creation of spaces of peace, that is, spaces where peace processes can take place at the grassroots level. Analysing everyday predicaments and lived experiences, the paper provides examples of such venues.

**Name:** Mate Subasic

**Institution:** University of Zagreb, Croatia

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

Results of the general election in BiH which took place in 2014 have proved once again that political cleavages in society are still based on the ethnic division. Institutional design, better yet the level of centralization vs. decentralization is still the main driver of separation of ethnic groups. Focal questions today deal with the power and jurisdiction among different levels of governance (Cantons, Entities and the Central State). At the same time, three ethnic groups and their political representatives agree on two issues. One is the question of economic sustainability, a general European trend, and the other one is their joint commitment to the European Union integration process. In this proposal, I will focus on the latter. As the process of integration to the EU includes negotiation and implementation of a number of laws in different areas, it is necessary to centralise the governance, at least to a certain degree. BiH officials have even proposed coordination mechanisms including Coordination body which would oversee the process, which is supported by the EU authorities. BiH has been given direct support by the EU and member states officials, namely, German and UK's Foreign Ministries, as they implement the necessary reforms. However, the establishment of such a central body has raised once again the question of centralization and distribution of power. My argument is that Bosnia and Herzegovina's political representatives have to reach an agreement on the new institutional design and its implementation plan, or each next policy which would have to be negotiated with EU will represent a new threat to the political stability of the system. Therefore the new initiative launched by EU officials and supported by political representatives in the country has a little chance, if any, for success as it fails to overcome the issue of power distribution within institutions.

**Name:** Martin Mendelski

**Institution:** University of Trier, Germany

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

What impact has the European Union (EU) on the development of the rule of law in South Eastern Europe (SEE)? The author argues that the EU has a positively reinforcing effect with regard to judicial capacity and substantive legality, i.e. the alignment of domestic legislation with international standards, but has pathological power with regard to judicial impartiality and formal legality (the inner morality of law). The author explains the pathological impact of EU-driven rule of law reforms by a deficient reform approach and unfavorable domestic conditions which in their interplay reinforce certain systemic pathologies (legal instability, incoherence, politicization) which undermine the rule of law. The main argument is supported in a mixed method study. A quantitative indicator-based analysis measures rule of law development across four key dimensions on the basis of a variety of data (e.g. survey-based indicators, CEPEJ data and a unique dataset on legislative output) and identifies the positively and negatively reinforcing impact of the EU in it. Additionally, the author draws on a number of qualitative interviews which he conducted with magistrates from SEE and representatives from the EU, the European Court of Human Rights and the Council of Europe. The study shows that external rule of law promotion in already weak rule of law countries is not transformative but reinforces systemic pathologies which weaken the rule of law.

**Name:** Graeme Crouch

**Institution:** University of Victoria, Canada

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

The synergy between state institutions and non-governmental actors (NGAs) has never been more important for the EU-aspirations of the former Yugoslav countries. While these countries' governments have professed a desire to join the EU, President Juncker's cold enlargement rhetoric and the Commission's unambitious annual enlargement strategy make clear that these countries still remain very much on the outside looking in. Thus far deficient institutional practices, political resistance, and weak public support have prevented these countries from making the substantive reforms necessary to meet the requirements of EU membership. In these cases the benefits of deeper state-NGA consultation cannot be more apparent. Using Serbia as a case study this paper draws on interview data and document analysis to explain how historically rooted public perceptions, inadequate networking, sustainability concerns, uncoordinated funding schemes, and loosely governed project plans have stunted the growth of NGAs and prevented institutionalized relationships from developing between NGAs and the state. Understanding this disconnect between NGAs and state institutions is paramount because for these countries with EU ambitions NGAs possess the issue-specific knowledge, resource potential and grass roots focus to bridge the gap between EU membership demands and the states' ability to meet them. Moreover, an investigation of NGA-state relations is critical to understanding the ways membership-required policy reforms are debated and developed in an age of so-called "EU enlargement fatigue".

**Name:** Sean Parramore

**Institution:** Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

### **Lessons (Not) Learnt? The EU Anticorruption Strategy in the Western Balkans**

This paper considers what the European Union (EU) appears to have learnt from the strategy and outcomes of supporting the fight against corruption in the Western Balkans. The aim is to better understand the evolution of the EU anticorruption strategy, and to consider to what extent the EU's ability to learn from its anticorruption efforts in the Western Balkans – as well as the broader Enlargement context – was also enabled or hindered by this experience. Drawing on primary and secondary sources, the paper argues that the EU's monitoring, advisory and negotiation instruments were from the outset constrained by a lack of anticorruption *acquis*, energized by the confidence that Enlargement could be a 'total solution' for corruption, and became evidently less utopian and more pragmatic as a result of the EU's enlargement experience in general, and the 2007 Enlargement in particular. These findings, as well as that anticorruption strategy appears more focused on inducing change from above by supporting improvements of anticorruption frameworks and track records than recognizing and supporting sector-level change processes, suggests venues for future research.

## Workshop II: Decentralization and Governance

### Discussants

Claire Gordon, London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Simon Hug, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Daniel Bochsler, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Nenad Stojanovic, University of Lucerne, Switzerland

### Participants

**Name:** Sanja Kmezic

**Institution:** European Research Academy Belgrade (EURAK)

#### **RRPP Regional Project: Impact of Fiscal Decentralisation on Local Economic Development in Serbia and Montenegro**

EURAK's RRPP-funded project focuses on a comparative study and an impact analysis of the current fiscal decentralization models, intergovernmental fiscal relations and local fiscal policies on local economic development in Serbia and Montenegro. Fiscal federalism and decentralization have become burning policy issues within the EU, particularly in the light of economic crisis. In Serbia, central government conducts inconsistent, unpredictable and nontransparent intergovernmental fiscal policies to which local governments reactively design fiscal measures that might negatively affect local economic development. Conversely, local governments in Montenegro enjoy higher level of fiscal predictability and autonomy, but they have also experienced significant decline of local revenues due to the crisis. The central focus of the proposed research will be a critical evaluation of the economic and factual effects of specific fiscal legal frameworks in Serbia and Montenegro, as the two countries prepare for EU accession. The goal of such research is to provide arguments as to why decentralized management of public finance represents good fiscal governance; establish major causes of ineffective intergovernmental fiscal governance in Serbia and assess its quality in Montenegro; assess the impact of fiscal decentralization and governance on municipal fiscal policies on local economic development; and provide specific recommendations to improve the quality and design of fiscal decentralization and governance in both countries. The thematic focus of our proposed study falls under the top policy priorities in both countries: fiscal and regulatory policy reforms, economic development and EU accession.

**Name:** Bernard Nikaj

**Institution:** University of Prishtina

**Building Functioning Rule of Law Institutions through Information and Communication Technology: Lessons from Kosovo**

The rule of law continues to be the most important prerequisite for development in countries in transition. At the same time it continues to be the most challenging issue for governments in these countries. Issues of lack of judges, poor administrative procedures and systems and corruption are just few of the issues impeding full establishment of functioning rule of law institutions. This paper looks at the issue of establishing modern court administrations in post-conflict countries, with particular focus on the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in aiding these administrations. Furthermore, this paper looks at the role and impact of these initiatives in institution building as very often in post-conflict and state building situations it is the ICTs that precedes the adoption and enactment of legislation and other institutions such as administrative rules and procedures. In order to achieve its aim, this paper will first present the current state of literature in state building with a particular focus on the use of ICTs in post-conflict and state building situations. Then it will present the case of Case Management Information System (CMIS) and its implementation in the justice sector of Kosovo. Through tracking the process of conception, implementation and development of the CMIS and the interplay of different actors involved, this paper will argue that ICTs are not just an enabling factor, but a rather active actor in building and defining the nature of the institutions in which they operate. It will argue that initiatives that start as pilot projects turn into long term, central tools that define the policy agenda. Some suggestions and potential research venues will be explored at the end.

**Name:** Jolta Kacani

**Institution:** Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Spain

**Industrial Policy as an Instrument of Political Decentralization and Regional Integration: The Case of Albania**

Today, as market competition is becoming more severe and the business environment is changing rapidly policies in supporting and promoting private sector development have become a necessity. Industrial policy is a flexible instrument governments have to develop a framework for decentralized policies based on the ongoing strategic relationship between the government and the private sector. In the same time sound implementation of industrial policy encourages regional integration by promoting economic activities that result in structural change.

This paper introduces an innovative model to assess the role of the government of Albania in implementing effective industrial policies promoting a faster and easier integration of the Albanian private sector into the Western Balkan market. This model encompasses an in-depth analysis of doing business indicators, inflow of foreign direct investments, and exports of locally manufactured goods.

Finally, by presenting a SWOT analysis aimed at identifying obstacles in the application of international standards, laws and regulations that are fully in line with those required for a proper industrial policy, this paper recommends new paths for government institutions for conducting an industrial policy that fosters long term economic cross- border relations in the Western Balkans and beyond.

**Name:** Marius Calu

**Institution:** Queen Mary, University of London, United Kingdom

**Post-independence Kosovo: Managing Diversity and Building Social Cohesion at the Local Level of Governance. Minority Rights within the Process of Decentralization**

This paper analyses the measures taken to integrate, accommodate and protect minorities at the local level in Kosovo while mainly addressing the situation of the Serb community as the key target of the process of decentralization. The first part of the paper takes into consideration general arguments that show both positive and negative aspects of using decentralization as a tool for managing diversity. This paper then looks at the legislation and measures on decentralization that had as priority addressing the needs of Kosovo Serbs by empowering them at the local level so as to gradually diminish the influence of parallel structures sponsored by Serbia and encourage them to accept the authority of Kosovo. The creation of new municipalities in post-independence Kosovo illustrates the empowerment of Serbs at the local level. This has consisted of a territorial and administrative reorganization of Kosovo so as to increase the number of Serb majority municipalities to ten. In comparison, Kosovo Turks are the only other minority community with their own municipality, while only two other Albanian majority municipalities were newly established as a result of decentralization.

**Name:** Sinisa Marcic

**Institution:** University of New South Wales, Australia

**Doing magic reforms of public administration in the Western Balkans: Turning a vicious circle into a virtuous circle**

The theory of impartial government institutions conceptualized by Rothstein and Teorell, proposes that the quality of government (QoG) is impartiality of institutions that exercise government authority. At a minimum, a state provides the access to public authority through free and fair democratic elections, and at a maximum ensures that government officials strictly adhere to the existing laws so as to equally protect citizens' interests.

It is widely regarded that a state's socio-economic development and implementation of government policies is contingent on the effectiveness of public administration. The successor states of former Yugoslavia, grapple with their public administrations that are perceived as highly inefficient and unresponsive to people. Hence the importance of administrative reforms, both in terms of designing adequate procedural frameworks capable of marrying the public's expectations and realistic reach on one hand, and recruitment of public servants on the other.

The current article looks into the interplay between elected power holders and public servants in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia with a focus on high level public servants' opinions. More specifically, the paper seeks to tap into senior public servants' experience so as to determine the best path in the process of administrative reforms in these countries. Although the administrative systems in the three countries share some common characteristics such as the detrimental socialist legacy and a long history of inefficiency in dealing with public matters, the public administrations essentially differ and require contextualized approach in order to be understood properly. It is therefore argued that any attempt to apply universal "magic" solutions imported from other settings is likely to cause more damage than good. What is required is a combination of good practices from other countries coupled with local or regional touch.

**Name:** Merita Xhumari

**Institution:** University of Tirana, Albania

### **Strengthening Local Government Structures and their Cooperation in Albania**

Strengthening local government structures and their cooperation to respond to the new obligations of the Civil Servant Law 152/2013 is part of the process of functional and territorial decentralization in Albania after the 1990. The new social roles of LGUs on social protection and other responsibilities to the citizens should be associated with development of their capacities in social capital and networking. Albania is under a pressing need of strengthening local government and their cooperation with other local social actors to fulfill their responsibilities in the field of social protection. For two decades, it is going under a process of restructuring the administrative structures through decentralization and consolidation of the good governance principles. Creation of standards and benchmarks on HRM, transposed into legislation and practices, was in the focus of many international interventions. One of the most important was the new approved Law "On Civil Servant" 152/2013 which was extending the scope of application for the first time to local authorities such as communes. Given the fact that for the communes this approach is new, but also considering the variety of practices in implementation of the existing CS Law (1999), including municipalities in terms of size and the structures, a field survey was undertaken to assess their capacities to respond to the new CS Law 152/2013 obligations. The expected result was to enable policy-makers and legislators to realistically reflect this situation in the by-laws and to undertake other interventions toward the capacity development of LGUs on HRM. T

Name: Aleksandra Zdeb

Institution: Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland

### **Good governance in Mostar and Brčko: Externally-driven Power-sharing on the Local Level**

The framework of peacebuilding from below introduced by John Paul Lederach (1997) has shifted attention from the state-centric approach to a multi-track reconstruction which includes grassroots state-building efforts. It is not surprising then, that after the 1992-1995 war, two local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Mostar and Brčko – have attracted attention as crucial for its post-conflict reconstruction.

These two municipalities have comparable political systems based on power-sharing model (not identical) and similar interim divisions, but they differ significantly in the scope of system's functionality: Mostar being the failure while Brčko is the success story. However, there is one elementary difference: Brčko, as the 'international laboratory', has been the most closely supervised place of all the areas in BiH, where the first elections took place in 2004. In Mostar the situation has been reverse, with short-lived international administration, and the governance of the city being handed over to the local politicians soon after local elections (held in June 1996), many crises emerged and required help of the international community – something that has not happened in Brčko.

The main goal of the paper is comparative analysis (based on sociological discourse analysis) of external actors' influence on power-sharing structures in Mostar and Brčko. Both cases will be examined from the perspective of good governance which will be narrowed down to one dimension, namely politics/administration (policy decision-making and implementation) combined with 8 characteristics (participation, consensus, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, functionality, equity and inclusiveness, rule of law (UNESCAP)). It seems that, in a short perspective, the best results in state-building were here achieved through the presence and pressure of the international community. On the other hand, in a longer perspective, international presence created not only a 'dependency syndrome' (Ashdown, 2007: 238) and a superficial impression that the system is 'working' (Belloni 2013: 283), but also a dangerous post-withdrawal moment when legitimacy of political institutions is questioned.

**Name:** Olja Jovanovic, Marija Brankovic

**Institution:** University of Belgrade

**RRPP Regional Project: From Inclusive Identities to Inclusive Societies: Exploring Complex Social Identity in Western Balkans**

In this paper, we will present the RRPP funded project "From Inclusive Identities to Inclusive Societies: Exploring Complex Social Identity in Western Balkans". Recent social-psychological research has repeatedly confirmed a strong connection between inclusiveness of individuals' identities and their support to inclusiveness of society as a whole. The present study will explore the complexity and inclusiveness of social identity and its correlates in young people. The key construct of social identity complexity reflects the degree to which different identities are both differentiated and integrated in a person's mental representation of her or his group membership. Low complexity implies a single highly exclusive in-group representation, while high complexity means differentiation between in-group categories and their inclusion. Social identity inclusiveness refers to how inclusively or exclusively one defines the in-group from the combination of multiple cross-cutting categories. The study is currently being conducted in four countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia. In each country, two towns have been chosen, one in which ethnic majority on state level has majority status, and the other in which it has minority status. We aim to have 800 participants, aged between 20 and 30, who will take part in the survey, and also deepen our understanding of the identity related issues through focus group discussions and case studies in each town. We will present the research team of the project, as well as project objectives, methodology and some of the preliminary findings regarding the nature and structure of social identity among young people in Western Balkan countries. We will focus on comparisons of identities in different social contexts (countries, ethnically homogenous or heterogeneous and socio-economic backgrounds, from minority/majority perspective). Findings will also be presented regarding relations between social identity complexity and a number of socially relevant outcomes: attitudes and distance towards out-groups, as well as more general attitudes (anti-discrimination policy, civic activism, political cynicism, trust in institutions etc). The findings will be discussed in the context of social and economic challenges of the development of cooperation and integration in the region.

## Workshop III: State Capacity, Institutions and Informality

### Discussants

Vedran Dzihic, University of Vienna, Austria

Drini Imami, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

Arben Hajrullahu, University of Prishtina, Kosovo

Nicolas Hayoz, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

### Participants

**Name:** Elvina Merkaj

**Co-Authors:** Edvin Zhllima, Drini Imami

**Institution:** University of Tirana

### The Role of Politics and Networking in the Distribution of RDF: The Case of Albanian Local Governance<sup>1</sup>

In developing countries the decentralization process has been quite different compared to the path followed in developed countries. In post socialist countries, including Albania, regional development has been a fast process accompanied by strong deregulation and significant institutional changes. The level of funds being allocated to local government units (LGU) is based on schemes which often do not follow the equity and efficiency criteria of decentralization. Political economy scholars, in fact, explain the allocation of intergovernmental grants based on an opportunistic approach of the central government to maximize the ability of reelection rather than the social welfare. These scholars find empirical evidence that politics matter in the grants distribution. On the other hand, besides political influence from the ruling party a successful accumulation of the grants requires strong leadership capabilities and influence tactics expressed through networking relations. Few studies have analyzed transfers in Albania. The focus of this study is the Regional Development Fund (RDF) during the period 2011-2013. RDF is a competitive scoring based fund. The transparency of the project selection process is reported as being

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<sup>1</sup> This working paper is partially based on data of the project "Political and Equity Implication of Intergovernmental Transfers: the case of Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia" financed by RRPP during year 2012-2013

weak and hence leaving great room for discretion. A Factor Analysis method is used to analyze the factors influencing the probability of an LGU to be financed by RDF. The findings support the notion that the tactics of using networks and unavailable information are successful if combined with support from LGU leaders who are influential within a political party – and preferably a party in the governing coalition. The political and networking factors are strongly linked to the ability of the LGU leader to enhance the importance of the LGU in terms of income and votes by first meeting the quality criteria of the project proposal as required by the RDF legal acts.

**Name:** Slobodan Tomic and Slagjana Taseva

**Institution:** Belgrade Institute for Public Policy, Transparency International Macedonia

**RRPP Regional Project: Are Regulatory Agencies in Serbia and Macedonia Transparent and Accountable?**

The paper presents preliminary findings of a one-year project funded by the RRPP and conducted by the Belgrade Institute for Public Policy and Transparency International Macedonia. It aims to map out the transparency and accountability regimes of ten agencies in Serbia and Macedonia, from five major regulatory domains – environment protection, energy, telecoms/IT, media, and market competition. Regulatory agencies have been increasingly important institutions in the developed world in the last decades, with an essential role in fostering good governance. One of the priorities of developing and transition states alike in building efficient and sustainable markets as well as the rule of law lies precisely in developing functional regulators. They are to be independent of the executive, however this may raise the question of whether the regulators themselves enforce their mandate in line with the goals and values delegated by the legislation. It is therefore important not only to grant institutional independence to regulators, but also to consider the mechanisms which would ensure their accountability and transparency. To gauge these mechanisms and regimes based on them, this paper borrows conceptual frameworks from public administration and regulation literature. Following the mapping of the degrees and types of transparency and accountability across the ten agencies, the paper explores three sorts of variations: (i) cross-country; (ii) cross-sectoral; (iii) temporal variation within individual agencies. While the primarily goal of the paper is exploring the patterns and varieties of the regulators' transparency of and regulatory regimes, tentative hypotheses will be put forward to explain the causes of these regimes.

**Name:** Milos Djindjic

**Institution:** European Policy Centre – CEP, Serbia

**RRPP Regional Project: Performance Audit and Policy Evaluation: On the Same or Parallel Tracks?**

The paper analyses the relationship between performance audit and policy evaluation. While the former is performed by supreme audit institutions, the latter is a competence of internal/external policy evaluators. Having in mind that they tackle the same phenomenon i.e. assessment of governmental activities, it is paramount to examine the extent of their complementarity.

The authors propose that interlinking the fields would generate benefits in terms of contributing to the improvement of the performance of the public sector. More specifically, we argue that although institutionally performed by state bodies themselves or external evaluators, policy evaluation could make use of data stemming from the performance audit. The proposed research falls under wider framework of the new public management concept (NPM).

The experience of the new EU Member States showed that NPM applied as a model has a debilitating impact in countries that do not have a well-functioning public administration. Nevertheless, elements stemming from that model are being still applied in the current EU enlargement to the Western Balkans. On the other hand, performance audit and policy evaluation have not been subject of comparative studies except for World Bank and OECD assessments.

This research aims to fill this gap by bringing comparative insight from the Western Balkans candidate countries for the EU membership, i.e. Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. First, the paper studies the state of play of performance audit and policy evaluation and their interrelationships in selected countries. Second, the findings from the Western Balkans are assessed against practices from EU member states (selected case studies). The paper relies on qualitative methodology, i.e. document analysis of primary and secondary literature as well as data from semi-structured interviews with relevant actors conducted in the period January – March 2015.

**Name:** Luca Uberti, Ergent Pire

**Co-Authors:** Drini Imami, Endrit Lami

**Institution:** University of Otago, New Zealand; Agricultural University of Tirana; Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), Hungary

**RRPP Regional Project: Rents and Rent-Seeking in Neo-Patrimonial Democracies: An Econometric Approach to Measuring Corruption**

In neo-patrimonial regimes, rulers create and distribute economic rights and rents in exchange for bribes or political support from their subordinates. This paper proposes a novel econometric methodology to measure corruption and clientelism more objectively in the context of neo-patrimonial democracies. Relying on intervention analysis, we study the time distribution of rent flows prior to elections, using data on mining-sector licensing in Albania (1998-2009). Our tests suggest that clientel exchange is the best explanation for the recorded 'peaking' of rent flows in the run-up to elections. We then use our regression estimations to define and compute a simple 'index of patron-client exchange', and to calculate the total rent and total bribe in Albania's mining sector. We find that mining licenses are not the primary vehicle of patronage distribution in Albania, although we estimate a total annual bribe amounting to 0.55% of mining value-added. We conclude by discussing the strengths and weaknesses of our approach to measuring corruption vis-à-vis other approaches employed in development policy and practice (e.g. corruption perception indexes).

**Name:** Jelena Pesic, Dragan Stanojevic

**Institution:** Development Initiative Group, Belgrade

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

The main object of the research are informal relations, practices and norms which are established between members of political elite (on central and local levels), and economic actors, including members of economic elite, in contemporary Serbian and Kosovo societies. The theoretical framework of the research relies on the concepts of political capitalism, clientelism, informality and party patronage. The research is being conducted with complementary use of two qualitative methods: desk analysis (with an aim of recognising trends in establishing and maintaining formal and informal relations between agencies belonging to political and economic spheres in the last 20 years, identifying and assessing existing researches and analysis, and describing relevant legal frameworks), and face-to-face semi-structured interviews with experts, and different actors belonging to political and economic spheres (people on high positions in public administration, influential people in political parties, appointed members of governing bodies in public enterprises, executives/managers/owners in private companies).

**Name:** Damir Kapidzic, Boban Stojanovic

**Institutions:** University of Sarajevo, University of Belgrade

**RRPP Regional Project: Balkan Electoral Comparative Study: Impact of Personal Vote on Internal Party Democracy**

Due to the existing electoral system, representatives are more responsible to party leadership than to citizens who voted for them. In order to have more responsible representatives, party leadership and state officials, there should be more democratic political parties. This project intends to investigate the influence of electoral system – understood as the set of laws and party rules regulating electoral competition between and within parties – on internal party democracy. More precisely, it will assess the impact of personalization of the electoral system on intra-party democracy, on the performance of elected and appointed state officials, and on the rule of law. Efficient electoral system for a representative democratic government must include rules for both, parties' and personal representation. Balkan countries have passed through a very turbulent and violent democratic transition, which resulted with unstable political system dominated by political parties. Party representation is dominating over personal representation and parties are dominating over institutions. Party leadership is imposing strong authority, but they are lacking legitimacy.

The main objectives of project are: to investigate and analyze negative outputs produced by the electoral systems in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro; to explore why same, or similar electoral systems produce different outcomes in consolidated, compared to non-consolidated democracies.

**Name:** Edin Hodzic, Albana Rexha

**Institutions:** Analitika-Center for Social Research, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights; CRPM-Center for Research and Policy-Making, Group for Legal and Political Studies

**RRPP Project: Courts as Policy Makers?: Examining the Role of Constitutional Courts as Agents of Change in the Western Balkans**

The research project examines the contribution of constitutional courts to democratic transition and consolidation in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. In more concrete terms, the project focuses on examining the competences, positioning, legitimacy and overall performance of constitutional courts in resolving important political questions in four transitional states of the Western Balkans: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. This research effort is intended to fill a considerable gap in literature: while the position and role of constitutional review in democracies is elaborated and discussed at length in various strands of academic literature, the role of courts in transitions has received much less scholarly attention. The gap we aim to fill with this research is twofold: first, legal theories of democratic transition remain underdeveloped, while theories of adjudication and rule of law that apply in ordinary times do not hold in unstable periods of democratic transitions. Second, on an empirical level, the successor states of the former Yugoslavia warrant particular attention, as we are still lacking a comparative account of the role of their respective constitutional courts in democratic transformation. Treating these countries and their constitutional courts as a distinct object of study is justified for at least two reasons: unlike many transitional states in Europe (with the exception of Poland), the former Yugoslavia had a tradition of constitutional adjudication, dating back to 1963; second, transition to democracy in most states of the former Yugoslavia is a complex transition, involving not only a transition from an authoritarian regime to democracy, but also, to a greater or lesser degree, transition from conflict to peace. It is in particular due to this complex transition, we hypothesize, that the challenges that the constitutional courts faced in these countries were considerably more complex than was the case in other transitional contexts in Europe. At the same time, however, overwhelming distrust in political actors and considerable public hunger for justice in these countries has put constitutional courts in a particularly favourable position to oversee and even shape the political processes.

Against such background, our key research question is: whether, how and to what extent the constitutional courts have delivered in playing the role of a democratic control and dispute-resolution mechanism in the face of considerable constitutional uncertainty characterizing transitional states?

**Name:** Elona Dhembo

**Institution:** University of Tirana

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

This paper explores the role of public administration in delivering good governance to the citizens. Looking at the case of Albania, the paper describes main characteristics and attempts to measure and analyse trending perceptions, opinions, attitudes and values of the Albanian public administration, at both central and local level. Public administration's role and responsibilities, its relations with citizens and its activity and related developments to good governance and services are seen through the lenses of those currently serving for the Albanian public administration. To grasp this, a quantitative approach is employed. During 2014, a survey was designed and administered with 1352 public administration servants at local and central level agencies and institutions. Methods of data analysis include descriptive and relational statistics. The results confirm that the gap between legal and policy framework and its implementation persists for the public administration in Albania. Public administration in Albania is yet characterised by unstable career paths, high turnover rates shown in the limited numbers of experienced civil servants, and time to time troubled by malpractice, corruption, abuse of power and influence of politics. This overview is accompanied by an overall scepticism on the implementation of participatory democracy principles which need to be cautiously addressed in an era where collaboration with citizens and civil society is becoming a foundation for public sector reforms and developments.

## Workshop IV: Social Disparities and Welfare State

### Discussants

Barbara Lucas, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Simone Baglioni, Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom

Danijela Majstorovic, University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Michael Roy, Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom

### Participants

**Name:** Ariola Agolli

**Institution:** Partners Albania, Center for Change and Conflict Management

#### **RRPP Regional Project: Challenges and Opportunities for Employment of Marginalized Groups by Social Enterprises**

The proposed research aims to understand the perceived challenges and opportunities for employment of marginalized groups by social enterprises. In order to do so, it will map the social enterprise models in Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo, by identifying them, classifying them and comparing them, as well as analyzing the institutional processes that underlie them. The motivation for this research is the existing evidence from other countries that in addition to contributing to economic growth, social enterprises offer an opportunity for employing vulnerable and marginalized groups. Considering the high unemployment rates, low participation rates and increasing social disparities in the countries targeted with this project, as well as the fact that social enterprises legislation is currently underway in Macedonia and Albania, we believe that the results of this study will contribute to improved national policies on social enterprises and ensure that they are framed in a way that emphasizes the inclusion and employment of the most marginalized and vulnerable.

**Name:** Ana Kotevska and Ruzica Papic

**Co-Authors:** Natalija Bogdanov, Aleksandra Nikolic, Dragi Dimitrievski, Dragan Gjosevski, Nenad Georgiev, Aleksandra Martinovska-Stojcheska, Ana Simonovska, Emelj Tuna, Mirza Uzunovic, Tatjana Milic, Branka Andgelkovic, Emir Becirovic, Lenka Petrovic

**Institutions:** Association of Agricultural Economists of the Republic of Macedonia (AAEM), Macedonia and Public Policy Research Centre (CENTAR), Serbia

**RRPP Regional Project: The Impact of Socio-economic Structure of Rural Population on Success of Rural Development Policy**

The social and welfare development of rural areas is a challenge for Western Balkan countries. The rural development policies have an increasing relevance for the policy makers. The recent analyses in the three Western Balkan countries (Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) reveal a low level of application of the measures aimed for improving the quality of life in the rural areas and maintaining the environment. It raises questions for researchers to find the reasons behind and options to improve the successful application of rural development policies. The goal of this research is to support the socio-economic development in rural areas by understanding the motivational factors behind the behaviour of rural population, and the influence of formal and informal networks. The theory of planned behaviour and social capital theory are used to explain the different patterns of behaviour and networking of rural population. A direct survey in November-December 2014 covered 900 farm households in Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The analysis is carried out by principal component and social network analysis. These findings serve as a basis for recommendations, for both the policy makers and the local communities, in order to increase the effectiveness of the rural development policy and ultimately mitigate the social disparities.

**Name:** Biljana Kotevska and Elena Anchevska

**Co-Authors:** Simonida Kacarska, Edin Hodzic, Mirna Jusic, Aida Malkic

**Institutions:** European Policy Institute (MK) and Centre for Social Research – Analitika (BiH)

**RRPP Regional Research Project: (In)equality in Social Protection: Multi-level Analysis of Intersectionality in Social Assistance Provision - A Comparative Study**

This paper presents the preliminary findings of the research project “(In)equality in social protection: multi-level analysis of intersectionality in social assistance provision- A comparative study”. The study is concerned with the everyday coping strategies of persons under social protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia, with a focus on those receiving permanent monetary social assistance. It is the first multi-level investigation of inequalities in this context/region, and the first to look at social protection through an intersectional prism. Stemming from Winker and Degele’s multi-level framework for analysis of intersectionality, the study aims to uncover the intersections of social assistance recipients’ inequality on and between the symbolic, structural and individual levels, and whether the structures in place reconfirm or alleviate the inequalities in the two countries of interest. Based on sixty in-depth interviews and two focus group discussions, the study first attempts to identify perceived sources of inequality, related self-identified needs and strategies for everyday coping, of social assistance recipients, including their position within, and experience with symbolic and structural environment. Second, through media discourse analysis, it aims to identify recipients’ references to symbolic representation of social assistance and identify such representation of social assistance recipients in the current social and cultural landscape. Third, using legal and policy frameworks analysis, it examines whether and how country policies identify and address inequality of social assistance recipients, from a social assistance recipients’ perspective, as well as any symbolic representations which they might construct and/or support to sustain. Finally, by capturing the everyday realities and real challenges of those receiving social assistance, we strive to identify points for policy interventions, and generate policy recommendations.

**Name:** Ana Alacovska

**Institution:** Media Artes, Ohrid, Macedonia

**RRPP Regional Project: 'Raki Casks', 'Coffins Gone Astray' and 'Mad Cows': The Psycho-social Dynamics of Creative Work in the Post-communist Balkans**

This article focuses on the experiences of creative work in the post-communist Balkans, namely Macedonia and Albania. In doing so, it offers a profound reassessment of recent governmental uncritical celebrations of creative work and creative industries as a panacea for all the ills of the regional economies in a tailspin. The post-communist shift towards neoliberal markets had brought about tectonic changes in the understanding of the economic value and societal importance of creative work. Most Balkan governments have readily jumped on the Western neo-liberal policy bandwagon celebrating the 'creative industries' as job and wealth generators through 'weightlessness' -- ideas, knowledge, innovation, design, new media. Post-communist governments hope to harness such 'weightlessness' to the overhaul of the collapsed socialist economies and, thus substitute for the defunct 'heavy industries' mainly by featuring a 'vast supply of creative workforce' – fashion, virtual and artistic work as part of their invest-in-campaigns. However, as opposed to detailed sociological ethnographic studies of working class's lives in post-communism, there is virtually a dearth of studies of post-communist creative workers. Whereas studies of creative labour in the West started burgeoning following the fierce enforcement of neo-liberal cultural policies, there is still a yawning lacuna of creative labour studies in post-communist countries. Moreover, as socialist countries have long considered art and art-based activities as intrinsically 'anti-economic', and even today the widespread public opinion in the region is distrustful and disparaging of the economic potential of creative industries, there is still a lack of official monitoring systems and reliable statistical evidence of creative labour. In such a context, we know very little by way of systematic and rigorous empirical analysis of the nature of creative work in post-communist countries in the Balkans. By drawing on in-depth interviews with a range of creative workers such as performing artists, new media workers and fashion designers we chart the subjective experience of work and the emotional responses to working conditions in post-communist creative industries. We have found evidence of heightened levels of anxiety, victimization, stress, disorientation, burnout and addiction. We also chart the psycho-social dynamics of rampant gender and ethnic based inequality in the creative industries in the region. In order to make sense of the creative workers' self-understanding and self-interpretation of creative work we draw on sociology of work, psychology of creative processes as well as political economy. Furthermore, by providing 'thick descriptions' of the subjective experiences of post-communist creative work we do hope to re-contextualize and re-conceptualize the field of predominantly Occidental sociological creative labour studies.

**Name:** Danica Cigoja

**Institution:** University of Belgrade

**RRPP Regional Project:** Gender Stereotypes in New Media: Serbian Pride on the Web

The mass media are characterized by a large flow of information that rarely allows critical thinking about stereotypes of any kind. In addition to this feature, there has been an extremely problematic approach in the news reports about gender minority groups. Gender stereotypes are present in everyday media all over the world, especially in countries in transition. This paper explains the role of new media in representation of gender minority groups in Serbia. Based on research about representation of gender minority groups in media during the Pride 2013 and Pride 2014 in Belgrade, this paper shows how online journalists who report for the mainstream portals in Serbia represent gender minority groups and how can they do it if they try to search and chose another way of telling the story. Author will also analyze the mechanisms and tools used by journalist, as well as their effects.

**Name:** Jelena Ceriman, Nita Luci

**Institutions:** University of Belgrade and University of Prishtina

**RRPP Regional Project:** Gender that Matters: Social Protection Status – Serbia and Kosovo<sup>2</sup>

Case(s)

This paper is based on the preliminary research results on accessibility of social services for social actors in Serbia and Kosovo. The main goal of our two year research project is to examine the current situation in the field of social services for the rural people, i.e. to give insight into the needs of the rural people, especially women, as well as the availability of social services provided by the government and the non-governmental sector in Serbia and Kosovo. The focus is given to quality of life, measured through the access to social protection services of the part of the people that represents the main support to the development of human capital in any society - women. Regarding the difficulties that women face in this field as neglected and particularly vulnerable social actors, our intention is to give them voice, in order for them to be heard and their needs recognized, and to identify problems that will preferably be resolved in the future. Our research aims to give answers to several questions: What are the barriers for rural people in terms of access to social services, with a special emphasis on the difficulties that women face? What are the opportunities for active involvement of people in rural areas in creating development plans for local social protection services? What are the needs of civil society organizations and government bodies in order for them to successfully provide social services to members of rural communities? The research findings suggest possible actions which can lead to the positive changes in this area.

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<sup>2</sup> The name ["Kosovo"] does not prejudice the status of Kosovo and is in accordance with the Resolution 1244 and the opinion of the ICJ on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

**Name:** Edvin Zhllima

**Co-Author:** Drini Imami

**Institution:** Agriculture University of Tirana

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

In various rural parts of Albania, access of males and females to land ownership/tenure is influenced by customary institutions which often contradict legal requirements that impose equal rights (between males and females). This paper aims to analyse the gender differences on land rights. Namely there is carried out in-depth analyses of the gender patterns of agriculture land ownership including land use, sale, rent and inheritance. The paper is based on a structured survey (sample is about 1,100) which took place during 2013 with women in rural areas in different parts of Albania. In addition there were carried out open-ended interviews with community leaders and experts, as well as focus groups. The study results offer useful findings and recommendations regarding overall women role and situation in rural livelihood and specifically gender gaps on access to secure property rights.

**Name:** Sidita Dibra, Blendi Gerdoci

**Institution:** University of Tirana

### **Toward a Gender Responsive and Performance Oriented Vocational Education System**

Albania has faced major transformation of economic, social and political environment during 24 years of transition and is actually fronting particular challenges in labor market and skill development. Unemployment level is high especially for females, vulnerable groups, youths and rural areas. Vocational education (VE) is considered as a government priority and an active labor market policy to fight the youth unemployment, but enrolment in vocational schools is very low especially for girls. This research focuses on the reasons why girls participate or refuse VE. Quantitative data are gathered at national level while in depth analysis is focused in three regions representative of public VE offer. After conducting in depth interviews with local actors, VE students and family members opinions are collected using focus groups. Contrast focus groups are held with students and parents outside VE to explore why the students, particularly girls, don't choose VE. This research analyzes the gender misbalance from users (students), system offer (vocational schools), social and economic factors, based on human capital investment, social and cultural capital as theoretical frameworks on education choice, with the goal of designing policies that lead to gender inclusive and high performing VE system<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> The results presented in this article are part of the research "Girls in Technical Education" financed by Kultur Kontakt Austria, supporting MoSWY in gender VE policy design

**Name:** Pranvera Elezi

**Institution:** Albanian Institute of Statistics, Tirana

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

During the last two decades, Albania has experienced a dynamic migration pattern with outflows and in the recent years with inflow of its citizens returning back in Albania. The latest population census conducted in Albania in 2011 revealed that 4.9 per cent of the residing working age population has had a migration experience abroad and returned to Albania after 2001. Returned migrants are considered to be potential drivers of human capital development in their country of origin if successfully reintegrated into labour market. This paper analyses the push and pull factors that determine the entry of returned migrants into the labour market and investigate the (mis)match of skills gained abroad and the labour demand in the country of origin. For this purpose, the 2013 national survey data on Return Migration and Reintegration in Albania are used. The survey uses a nationally representative sample of almost 2000 individuals, based on the Population Census 2011 upon returned migrants, allowing for a comprehensive comparison of the labour market status between the home-based and the returned migrants. Logistic regression models are built to estimate the likelihood of those in the labour force of being involved into some form of entrepreneurship, and/or of transiting from unemployment into employment for the last months. Preliminary results indicate that return migrants are likely more successful especially at increasing their employability due to their ability of investing more financial and experience capacity inputs they bring with into domestic labour market.

# Workshop V: Migration Flows, Social Capital and Remittances

## Discussants

Lantona Sado, National Institute of Statistics of Albania

Jelena Dzankic, European University Institute

Geoff Pugh, Staffordshire University Business School, United Kingdom

Robert Pichler, University of Graz, Austria

## Participants

**Name:** Mirjana Stankovic

**Co-Author:** Bratislav Stankovic

**Institution:** International Institute for Knowledge and Innovation, Washington D.C.

### Brain Gain in Southeast Europe: Mission (Im)Possible?

Over the past twenty years, the number of researchers and scientists in the countries of Southeast Europe (SEE) has seriously decreased. Many highly educated Southeast Europeans leave their countries in search of a better life. They are attracted to career opportunities, higher salaries, and better overall conditions abroad. The paper provides a comparative analytical snapshot of the innovation and brain drain trends in the SEE. It is often argued that skilled migrants raise economic welfare at home thanks to a relatively larger flow of remittances. We will try to challenge this assumption by providing examples and data on how skilled migrants remit less and often sever their ties with their home country. Our model is based on the following aspects: (i) Micro-economic level of analysis: a.) Migrant workers are motivated to remit for a variety of reasons, ranging from pure altruism to pure self-interest; b.) Altruistic – migrants' remittances increase with declines in family income at home; c.) Self-interest motives – remittances are positively related with family income at home, and (ii) Macro-economic level of analysis: Macro-economic factors, i.e. interest rates, exchange rates and political instability, have an impact on the level of international remittances received by countries. Interest and exchange rates need to be competitive, and countries need to be politically stable in order to encourage the flow of

remittances to labor-sending countries. Our initial findings indicate that an increase in the share of migrants with tertiary education has a negative impact on total and per capita remittances. This contradicts the claim that the negative impact of the brain drain can be mitigated or even offset by the fact that skilled migrants remit more than unskilled ones. These findings provide an additional source of concern about the brain drain for countries of origin. This should raise the urgency of finding (non-distortive) ways to reinforce skilled migrants' links with their country of origin. This might possibly be achieved as part of a cooperative arrangement between source and (their principal) host countries, including policies of return and circular migration.

**Name:** Entela Sinani

**Institution:** University of Genoa

### **Internal Migration and Value Transformation in Albania**

This paper aims to investigate the value transformation after the internal migration in Tirana, in particular the shift from traditional values to modern ones. Tirana, demographically considered, represent a country in miniature due to the number of people involved in the internal migration; for this reason the capital function(ed) as a "social laboratory" (King 2005, 23) for the study of different migration forms. The migration phenomenon caused and produces the most dynamic processes in Albanian society. In order to understand the new phenomena and social processes after the collapse of Communist Regime, I investigated the relation between internal migration (mobility) and the transformation of value system as an indicator and a predictor of social transformation.

The empirical research consisted in 18 (eighteen) biographical interviews of migrants moved to Tirana from 1991 to 1999. The hypotheses advanced to investigate this value transformation are: 1) The internal migration changed the value priorities of migrants reflecting a shift from traditional values to modern ones. In order to explore the hypothesis I consider the rise of new values after the migration experience and the way in which some social values have been redefined according to some traditional features of Albanian family as patrilineality and patriarchy. 2) The internal migration was affected by selective way of value transmission which was possible through the affirmation of a hierarchical rank of importance of values; the new context of life required new values in order to achieve social integration. To support this hypothesis I consider the concepts of identity salience and commitment; and role expectations as presented from symbolic interactionism perspective. "The greater the commitment premised on an identity, the higher that identity will be in the salience hierarchy" (Stryker 1980, 83). The empirical part investigates diachronically, before and after migration experience, the intergenerational conflict and the reference model within the family context.

**Name:** Erka Caro Armela Xhaho

**Co-Author:** Mimoza Dushi

**Institutions:** University of Jyväskylä, Finland University of New York Tirana, University of Pristina , Kosovo

**RRPP Regional Project: Industrial Citizenship and Migration from the Western Balkans: Migration from Albania and Kosovo towards Greece, Germany and Switzerland**

This is a project investigating the experience of industrial citizenship (IC) of labor migrants coming from the Western Balkans (WB) to the European Union (EU). Our case studies are Albanian labor migrants to Greece, Germany and Switzerland and Albanians from Kosovo to Germany and Switzerland. The project is migrant-centered meaning that we rely primarily on accounts by the migrants themselves, to understand their motives and strategies, and the ways in which they benefit from migration by using a gender lens analyses. We look also at the return migrants, especially in the case of return migration from Greece as a prevalent trend the last years. The project aims to explore the relationship between citizenship, territoriality and states, by looking both at the protection of rights, as well as identity construction, and perceptions of opportunities for participation and belonging. The particular focus will be to determine to what extent transnational work and mobility (forth and back) is a vehicle for European integration from the bottom-up perspective, and to what extent it results in segmentation, alienation, and differentiation of access to rights and participation. We use a biographical approach, which implies the collection and analysis of detailed narratives of life histories of the population under study, usually by in-depth interviews. We reinforce our biographical accounts with semi-structured interviews, visual methods, participant observations, field notes and expert interviews which will provide context to the biographical interview texts. Until this phase of the project we have conducted 47 interviews with Albanian emigrants in Greece, Germany and Switzerland and 27 Interview with Kosovo emigrants in Germany and Switzerland, including returned emigrants. Moreover, 20 expert interviews were conducted in Albania, 14 expert interviews in Kosovo and 2 expert interviews in Zurich, Switzerland. The promotion of the project and its activities are promoted by the participation and presentation of the staff in many international conferences, workshops, seminars and roundtables as well as from the project website. Our goal is to relate migrants' experiences and to put forward their thoughts, fears and desires in the form of policy recommendations for policy makers emerging from the migrant community itself. We plan to organize two regional workshops in the respective countries where policy makers, related NGOs, academics will be invited and we will deliver the migrants voices and concerns in form of policy recommendations.

**Name:** Selma Porobic, Sinisa Volarevic

**Institution:** Researcher from Bosnia and Herzegovina, GROUP 484, Serbia

**RRPP Regional Project: Engendering Forced Migration, Socio-political Transition and Mental Health in BiH, Serbia and Kosovo**

Recognizing a recent growth in academic interest for the complex social, political and economic migration factors impacting human health, and a significant lack of scientific research into the current state of psychosocial well-being in Western Balkans, this project is a pioneering study into the nexus of migration, social transitioning and mental health in BiH, Serbia and Kosovo.

The project addresses the following research questions: How does the experience of inter-ethnic violence, large-scale war-displacement and protracted socio-economic transitioning affect the psychosocial health of women forced migrants in each of the three environments? What is the state of their psychosocial well-being, including both distress and resilience factors in these challenging social environments? What is the nature of the psychosocial support (governmental and nongovernmental and formal and informal), provided to this population? What should be done to address the psychosocial needs identified among this population, and to fill the gaps in the existing programmes and policies? Which good practices (if any) could authorities and different national, regional and international stakeholders take on to improve the access to and the practice of psychosocial services to women forced migrants in the three countries? By means of the empirical cross-case analysis of Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo, we investigate both personal and social dimensions of stressful mobility patterns and health.

This research deploys a multi-methods approach involving a combination of integrative quantitative and qualitative methods: Policy study on state of psychosocial services in the three countries); Psychometric tests, Ethnographic fieldwork involving participatory observation, In-depth interviews (life history approach); and Focus group discussions with practitioners (health and social workers). The targeted populations are women forced migrants (stratified sample of displaced and returnees) in geographical areas where these populations have large presence among the general population of the three countries.

The main objectives of this study are: A) To map the psycho-social health of women forced migrants, including the weaknesses and strengths of their psycho-social functioning, by focusing on existent categories in each country of research - returnees in BiH and Kosovo; displaced persons and refugees in BiH, Kosovo and Serbia; B) To identify the resources of the centers for social work, mental health centres, NGOs and other agencies involved in promotion of mental health and in provision of psycho-

social services; C) To exchange micro data and conduct a comparative analysis relevant to the regional macro level regarding the state of psycho-social health among women forced migrants; D) To produce programme and policy recommendations regarding best practices.

**Name:** Vladimir Lazarevik and Gazment Koduci

**Co-Author:** Ardita Kongjonaj

**Institution:** Healthgrouper Summit Macedonia, Healthgrouper Albania

**RRPP Regional Project: Migration of Health Care Workers from Western Balkans - Analysing Causes, Consequences and Policies**

The healthcare system is affected by massive migration of professionals. The migration of healthcare personnel in Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia is becoming a phenomenon that might risk the stability of the healthcare system with its upgrading intensity. It also contributes to lowering the quality of services rendered and at the same time reduces the necessary transfer of knowledge to the younger generations. The Order of Physicians of Albania, reports that number of medical doctors asked for certificate of "Good standing" in order to apply for a job abroad, is increased.

Qualitative research performed during last year, outlines and frames the problems and causes for the migration in five basic categories: economic, professional, political, personal and social factors for migration, including questions concerning the index of satisfaction for the profession. In order to respond to the objective of the study, a qualitative approach through focus groups with experienced and young professional was considered. After a literature review to allow a better understanding of "push" and "pull" factors that affect migration, the process of data collection started through the elaboration of 2 focus groups.

The need for higher income and professional development are the main causes of migration of healthcare workers from these Balkan countries in the past several years. Doctors are exposed to threats, verbal attacks and generally do not feel safe at their workplace as consequence job satisfaction is reduced.

**Name:** Veronika Duci

**Institution:** University of Tirana

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

Albanian migrants went in Greece and other countries at a productive age to find jobs and after 20-25 years of residing there, at the age of 60-65 years they leave the country without having ensured a pension. Many Albanian migrants that were previously employed in different sectors in Greece have lost their job and they are forced to return to their homeland. The phenomenon of return migration has been intensified during the last years, because of the economic crisis in Greece and the major difficulties of migrants in finding work. Many migrants have already returned to Albania, struggling to start a new life there, notwithstanding the fact that employment is still a major challenge for them. On the other hand, there is a specific category of migrants that they want to be retired when returning in Albania. The problem arises because of the lack of recognition of their years of work in Greece and the respective retirement contributions. This paper examines the current situation of this category of migrants and aims at identifying the existing gaps in the policies and legislative framework of the two countries, using a policy analysis methodology. Albanian returned migrants that went to Greece at an age of 40 years old and worked at sectors like farming, construction etc. are now facing another major challenge: having to spend the rest of their life in their homeland, as returned migrants and necessarily natives, without their pension. There is an immediate need to address these difficulties in a policy level.

**Name:** Nermin Oruc

**Co-Authors:** Ian Jackson and Geoffrey T. Pugh

**Institutions:** International University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Staffordshire University Business School

**The Effect of Remittances on Education in a Post-Conflict Society: Evidence from Bosnia-Herzegovina**

This paper analyses the effects of remittances on the education of children (enrolment and investments) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We use two different datasets, one collected in 2004 by the BiH Agency of Statistics, and another collected as part of a project supported by the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) in 2008, in order to identify the possible channels through which remittances from migrants affect human capital formation. We use a new approach to estimation, whereby the effect is calculated for each consumption quintile. We find that the relationship between remittances and educational enrolment is strong among households in the second quintile, which is around the relative poverty line, while in poorer and richer quintiles the effect is not significant.

**Name:** Bojana Babic and Mirza Mujacic

**Institution:** Center for Intradisciplinary Social Applied Research – CISAR

**RRPP Regional Project: Social Capital, Migration and Entrepreneurship - Evidence from a Post-conflict environment**

The main purpose of this research is to investigate social capital and its determinants in a post-conflict environment (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia) for different migrant groups. Specifically, we investigate social capital of external migrants (ex-diaspora returnees to BiH and BiH external migrants in Serbia and Croatia), internal migrants (internally displaced people in BiH) and non-migrants (domiciles in BiH) by focusing on (common) determinants that might be linked to all three categories as well as (specific) determinants of social capital which are particularly linked to any group in focus. We explore also the link between social capital, migration and entrepreneurship in Bosnia and Herzegovina focusing our attention on established and nascent businesses in this country. By examining post-conflict environment of SEE region we explore factors which influence social-capital in the areas where it is affected by the recent wars/conflicts; hence, very likely damaged. At the same time, these are areas where social capital is likely to have an important role in the (re)integration of the societies and indirectly, in supporting economic performance of individuals, companies and the whole society.

The research is based on a mix-method approach and it uses both quantitative and qualitative methodologies in order to elaborate a multi-dimensional aspect of social capital understood as groups and networks, trust and solidarity, collective action and cooperation, social cohesion and inclusion, empowerment and political action. The research results will contribute to better understanding of determinants and effects of social capital in the post-conflict environment of SEE region in both, household and business sectors.

**Name:** Blagica Petreski and Alba Vrapii

**Co-Authors:** Marjan Petreski, Jelena Zarkovic-Rakic, Edlira Narazani, Despina Petreska, Marko Vladislavljevic, Dane Todorovski, Aleksandar Kostadinov, Darko Tumanoski, Isilda Mara, Zyhra Bedalli, Jorid Narazani, Aleksandra Anic, Dragan Aleksic

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

The objective of the paper is to investigate if remittances sent to Macedonia, Albania and Serbia serve an informal social protection for household members left behind, and to suggest policy recommendations for transforming them into a formal social protection. The Remittances Survey 2012 for Macedonia, the Living Standard Measurement Survey 2008 for Albania and the Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2013 for Serbia, are used. Methodologically, we first create an index of vulnerability capturing the following eight facets of it: poverty, unemployment of both spouses, lone parent, bad health, clothing insufficiency, bad housing condition, undernourishment and insufficiency of leisure. Then the created index is regressed on household and community characteristics, to which remittances are added. The estimation is based on the Conditional Mixed Process (CMP) estimator of Roodman (2011), to estimate a system of two equations, whereby IV probit is used for the first-stage regression and IV ordered probit estimator for the second-stage one. The non-economic motive to migrate for Macedonia and the number of migrants per households for Albania, are used as instruments. The share of migrants per municipality is proposed as an instrument for Serbia, but its validity is not established. Results robustly suggest that remittances have a role to play for reducing vulnerability in all three countries. Namely, remittances likely reduce vulnerability in Macedonia, Albania and Serbia. The impact seems the strongest in Albania. In Macedonia, the impact works only through poverty, while in Serbia the causation cannot be identified, so that it is also likely that the estimated coefficients capture that fact that more vulnerable households have propensity to send higher or lower number of migrants abroad to be able to be pulled out of poverty.