

The RRPP promotes social science research in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia). Social science research aids in the understanding of the specific reform needs of countries in the region and in identifying the long-term implications of policy choices. Researchers receive support through research grants, methodological and thematic training events as well as opportunities for regional and international exchange and networking. The RRPP is coordinated and operated by the Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe (IICEE) at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). The programme is fully funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.



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More information about RRPP's partners in the region, the Local Coordination Units (LCUs) can be found under: www.rrpp-westernbalkans.net/en/about/Team.html



BENEFITS

We offer a platform for dynamic regional and international cooperation in the social sciences, simultaneously funding collaborative regional research projects and offering high-quality capacity building, mentoring and networking programs that facilitate stronger links between research and policymaking.

We involve a variety of stakeholders in our work, including individual researchers, universities, research institutes and organisations, ministries, politicians and the media. Through active cooperation with institutions and individuals representing the driving forces for reforms, we promote stronger recognition for the social sciences and their internationalisation and we demonstrate the critical importance of investing in research and development.

PARTICIPATION

The programme operates within three inter-related pillars:

1. FUNDING AND PROMOTING REGIONAL RESEARCH

- Allocation of research grants for regional projects on issues related to transformation processes in the region.

Institutions from the region may submit applications following a call for research projects published on the RRPP website. The RRPP Expert Evaluation Panel then evaluates the applications according to criteria defined within the call. Hereafter, the Steering Board decides which research projects recommended by the Expert Evaluation Panel are to be funded. The entire process lasts approximately five-six months.

2. INTERNATIONALISATION THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

- Organization of methodological and thematic training events provided by international and regional experts and mentors;
- Organization of scientific conferences and networking events.

This pillar focuses on regional research projects, research institutions and individuals which form part of the RRPP network. Such events as RRPP Scientific Conferences are also open to external participants.

3. LINKING RESEARCH AND POLICYMAKING

- Promotion and improvement of the status of social sciences in the Western Balkans, linking relevant research and policymaking processes through the involvement of major actors taking part in core research processes, such as researchers, universities, ministries, politicians/policymakers, academics, think-tanks, civil society organisations, media and publishing houses and international funding institutions.

All interested and relevant institutions and individuals are welcome to participate in this pillar aiming to bring about systemic changes in individual Balkan countries.



THE RRPP

1. is committed to high quality social science research
2. enables national, regional and international cooperation
3. fosters the involvement of young researchers in academic and policy research
4. makes research useful for development
5. initiates policy dialogues

WHY SOCIAL SCIENCES?

High quality research based on relevant methods and theories can contribute to the range of policy options, while evaluating and critically reflecting upon the state of society. Given the difficult post-conflict context in the countries of former Yugoslavia and the transitional processes still underway in the Western Balkans, the RRPP supports researchers focusing on the following thematic priorities:

- **MIGRATION**
- **SOCIAL DISPARITIES AND THE WELFARE STATE**
- **GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALISATION**

Transversal themes: GENDER, REGIONAL COOPERATION AND MEDIA

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Due to the support of RRPP:

- 50 research projects (26 regional and 24 national) worth 3.7 million CHF have been successfully completed;
- 19 regional trainings have been conducted by international specialists on research methods and project management, bringing together over 300 participants;
- Six Scientific Conferences have been organized since 2008, bringing together some 670 regional and international scholars;
- Several projects related to “National Policy Dialogues”, involving a number of relevant stakeholders in all countries, have been initiated;
- A pilot project entitled “Data Centre Western Balkans”, coordinated by the University of Zurich, Switzerland, has been launched. For more information visit: <http://balkandata.net>

www.rrpp-westernbalkans.net