



**WESTERN BALKANS: AN OPPORTUNITY OR A CHALLENGE FOR
THE FUTURE OF THE EU?
International Conference
Prishtina, Kosovo
26-27 June 2010**

Organized by:
Kosovo Public Policy Center
In cooperation with:
American University in Kosovo Research Center and Victory University College

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Conference Venue:
VICTORY University College – Main Campus
Conference Hall, 5th floor
Rr. Prishtine-Mitrovice, PN
Prishtina, Kosovo

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Saturday, 26 June 2010

- 09:00 – 09:30 Call to Order
Mr. Faton Bislimi, Kosovo Public Policy Center
- Welcome Address
Mr. Skender Hyseni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo
- 09:30 – 11:00 The Role of the EU in Kosovo (keynote address)
Ms. Maria Fihl-Vetting, Special Advisor to the ICR/EUSR in Kosovo
- Kosovo – Thinking Beyond the Ahtisaari Institutions (keynote address)
Prof. James Pettifer, UK Defence Academy, London, UK
- Why Kosovo needs to be so “Multiethnic” (keynote address)
Dr. Konrad Clewing, Sudost-Institut, Regensburg, Germany
- Inter-State Relations in Western Balkans and their EU Perspective
(keynote address)
*Dr. Paskal Milo, Former Foreign Minister of Albania, University of
Tirana, Albania*
- 11:00 – 12:30 ***Session One: The Economics of Western Balkans Path towards the EU***
Chair: Dr. Besnik Bislimi, American University in Kosovo
- Macroeconomic Performance, Trade and Competitiveness of South-East European
Countries*
Dr. Goran Buturac, Dr. Željko Lovrinčević, and Dr. Davor Mikulić, Institute of
Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Are Balkan Countries Converging to Europe? Some Macroeconomic and Institutional
Notes*
Dr. G. Ancona, Dr. R. Patimo, and A. Biscione, PhD Candidate, University of Bari, Italy
- Trade Relations between the Western Balkans and the EU*
Dr. Emirjeta Bejleri (Mema), Dr. Blerta Dragusha (Spahia), and Mario Curcia, MA,
Shkodra University “Luigj Gurakuqi”, Albania
- The Impact of Trade Policy Under the European Integration Process*
Ingrid Konomi, MSc, UFO University, Tirana, Albania
- Challenges of Competition Authorities of Small Countries toward European Integration -
Case of Albania*
Dr. Servete Gruda, University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania; Pajtim Melani, MSc, European
University of Tourism, Tirana, Albania
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:00

Session Two: The Social and Political Dimensions of Western Balkans European Integration

Chair: Dr. Bedri Selmani, Victory University College

Implementing Multiculturalism as a part of the European Integration Process: Social Inclusion of Minorities through the Decentralization Reforms in Macedonia

Dr. Bojana Jovanovksa, University St. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia, and Stiv Stojanov, MSc, Lazarski University of Commerce and Law, Warsaw, Poland

The Cultural and Linguistics Challenge of the Integration into the EU

Anyla Maxhe, PhD Candidate, Arsinela Xharra, MA, University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania

The European Union Policy in the Western Balkans

Dr. Ylber Sela, South Eastern European University, Tetova, Macedonia

Political Attitudes and Personality in Democratic Society

Marijana Markovik, MSc, Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Skopje, Macedonia

The Benefits and the Challenges of the Albania's EU Integration

Dr. Mirela Mersini (Zerellari), University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00

Session Three: EU on the Front Seat in the Integration Process of the Western Balkans

Chair: Mr. Rob Gulick, Kosovo Public Policy Center

EU's Role in Shaping Kosovo's Economic Future

Dr. Besnik Bislimi, American University in Kosovo, Prishtina, Kosovo

The Integration in the EU: A Positive or Negative Trend?

Albana Myfit Gjoni Karameta, MA, UFO University, Tirana, Albania

The EU in the Service of Albania – The Other Side of the Coin

Dr. Roberta Pace; Federica Borzillo, PhD Candidate; Lucrezia Andia, University of Bari, Italy

Foreign Direct Investment in Developing Countries and European Union

Rudina Qurku, MSc, Kristal University, Tirana, Albania

The EU's Foreign Policy towards the Balkans: An Opportunity or a Challenge?

Faton Bislimi, PhD Candidate, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada

19:30

The Western Balkans Policy Review

Dinner with keynote speakers, organizers, sponsors, and special guests (by invitation only)

Sunday, 27 June 2010

- 09:30 – 11:00 ***The Diplomatic and Civil Society Panel***
Chair: Prof. James Pettifer, UK Defence Academy
Mr. Xhevat Mustafa, Deputy Ambassador of Albania in Prishtina, Kosovo
Kosovo
Mr. Arban Abrashi, Deputy Minister for European Integration,
Government of Kosovo
Ms. Shqipe Mjekiqi, EU Integration Adviser to the President of Kosovo
Ms. Shqipe Pantina, Executive Director, Center for Policy and Advocacy,
Prishtina, Kosovo
- 11:00 – 11:30 The Lisbon Treaty: What is in it for Kosovo? (keynote address)
Dr. Finn Laursen, Dalhousie University
- 11:30 – 13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00 – 14:30 ***Session Four: Interdisciplinary Considerations of EU's Enlargement
towards Western Balkans***
Chair: Dr. Konrad Clewing, Sudost-Institut
- European Union and the Paradox of Accession: The Conflicting Logics of Integration
and Democracy in the Case of Albania*
Malvina Tema, MA, Marin Barleti Univeristy, Tirana, Albania
- Does Kosovo Integration Process Pose a Challenge or an Opportunity for the EU to
Build on Its Image as a 'Normative Power'*
Dr. Enkelejda Olldash, University of Tirana and University of New York in Tirana,
Tirana, Albania; Ilir Kalemaj, PhD Candidate, Central European University, Budapest,
Hungary
- Kosovo's Struggle for its Own Future in the European Union*
Salihe Abazi, MSc, Victory University College, Prishtina, Kosovo
- Economic Reform for Bosnia and Herzegovina's Accession into the EU: Factors
Impeding Change and Recommendations for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU, and the
International Community*
Kelly Lostroscio, MPA/MA Candidate, Indiana University, U.S.A.
- Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Balkans Region – Opportunities that
Offer EU Integration*
Blerina Kurti, MA, University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania
- 14:30 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 16:30

Session Five: Where do we Stand in our Path towards the EU?

Chair: Dr. Finn Laursen, Dalhousie University

Kosovo: Independence or Empty Sovereignty?

Elisa Randazzo, PhD Candidate, University of Westminster, UK

EU Enlargement and Institutional Quality: How far away is Albania from the EU Member States?

Rajmonda Biraci, MSc; Teuta Llukani, MSc; Dorjana Nano, MSc, University “Eqrem Cabej”, Gjirokaster, Albania

The Unresolved Issues that Cross the Way to Euro-Atlantic Integrations: The Case of the Western Balkans

Albulena Halili, MA, South East European University, Tetova, Macedonia; Fatmir Arifi, MA Candidate, Anatema NGO, Prishtina, Kosovo

Albania’s EU Integration Process: Integration Perspectives and Challenges

Ada Kertusha, PhD Candidate, University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania; Dorian Dervish, MBA, Tower Hill Trading, Chicago, USA

Knowledge-Based Economy - Human Development in Kosovo

Arbnora Krasniqi, MA; Leonora Selmani, MA; Lumturie Selmani, MA, Victory University College, Prishtina, Kosovo

16:30 – 17:00

Concluding Remarks

Dr. Besnik Bislimi, AUK Research Center Director

Farewell Remarks

Dr. Bedri Selmani, Rector, Victory College