



# LSEE

## Research on South Eastern Europe

LSEE is part of the LSE's European Institute, a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

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The last academic year has been another busy and productive year for LSEE. Our Visiting Speakers Programme covered a range of topical presentations on Southeast Europe, while we hosted a number of policy debates with key politicians and policy-makers from the region. On 22-23 May we had the opportunity to mark Croatia's accession to the EU with a one-day academic conference ("Croatia's EU Accession: Economic, Political & Regional Implications") and a visit to LSEE by Croatia's President Dr Ivo Josipović.

At the same time, we continued our engagement with research and policy in the region, building on our institutional collaboration with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), co-organising (with the Anglo-Serbian society) a two-day conference on *The State of Democracies in the Balkans* in Belgrade, and further supporting the research activities of our Research Network on Social Cohesion in SEE. During the last year, the latter produced two important publications (*The Social Consequences of the Global Economic Crisis in SEE* and *Labour Market and Skills in the Western Balkans*). Besides this, LSEE staff gave numerous conference presentations and public lectures in the region and elsewhere, and published a significant number of journal articles, books and book chapters.

These activities and outputs reflect well the continuous efforts made at LSEE, since its establishment in 2009, to create a focal point for UK-based research on the SEE region, to facilitate and strengthen such research conducted at the LSE, and to communicate this to policy circles in the UK and internationally. As we develop further, our team also grows in numbers: in 2012/13 Arjan Gjonca (Social Policy, LSE) joined the LSEE team, and a number of PhD students were linked to LSEE projects as research assistants; while next year Prof Adam Fagan will be joining us for a fixed period from

Queen Mary university. Sadly, this year we are also counting the first departure from the LSEE team of academics: in autumn 2013 Prof Sevet Pamuk is returning to Bogazici University after 5-years of service at LSEE and the European Institute. Sevet has been instrumental in setting up and developing the Turkish Studies programme at the LSE, and in giving to LSEE an all-important Turkish and Middle-Eastern dimension. We wish him well at his new post and we look forward to continuing working with him on the very important issues concerning Turkey's role in the SEE region. We are also sad to have to say goodbye to our Administrator, Cristina Maza, who is leaving London to take a post as a researcher in Tbilisi, Georgia. In her one year with us, Cristina has played an important role in coordinating our academic and public activities, as we continue to grow and diversify. We wish her, too, all the best in her new endeavours.

As we look into the future, we very much look forward to further developing our research and policy engagement activities and our involvement in the SEE region. The next year promises to be an equally busy and -we hope-productive one, with a large number of activities already in the pipeline, including our third PhD Symposium on SEE (co-organised with the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at UCL and the Centre for the Study of the Balkans at Goldsmiths University), the second conference of the Network on Social Cohesion, and a number of high-profile lectures by academics and political figures from the region. We hope that the range of activities reported in this newsletter will encourage you to join us in some of these future events.

**Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis**  
LSEE Acting Director



# Research Network on Social Cohesion

## Research on Social Cohesion and Social Inclusion in South East Europe

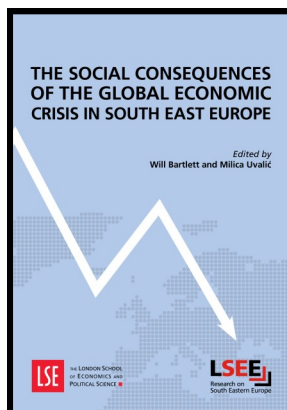
News

The LSEE Research Network has concluded another successful year with several meetings and publications arising from its activities. A detailed review of activities is available in the first Newsletter of the Research Network, published in May 2013 on the LSEE website.

Members of the Research Network participated in a workshop of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) held in Brussels on 23 October 2012. The workshop was opened by Yngve Engström, Head of Unit, DG Enlargement and Thomas Bender, Head of Unit, DG Employment. The aims of the workshop were to have a focused discussion on priorities for EC/IFI cooperation in the sector, specifically in the areas of employment and education, and to ensure enhanced alignment with social sector applications under the WBIF. A specially commissioned paper on "Challenges to Successful Employment Policy in the Region" was presented by Research Network member Professor Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski, Dean of the University American College-Skopje. The paper is available on the LSEE website. Other participants included members of the LSEE Research Network Advisory Board, and the Network Coordinator Will Bartlett.

The Research Network also participated at the 3rd meeting of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) forum on "New Skills for New Jobs in the Western Balkans", held in Sarajevo on 22 November 2012. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives of governments, international organisations, social partners, and researchers from the LSEE research network to discuss and exchange experience on the issue of skills and jobs in the region. Will Bartlett presented the recently published book of the Research

Network on "Labour Markets and Skills in the Western Balkans". The book is available for download on the LSEE website.

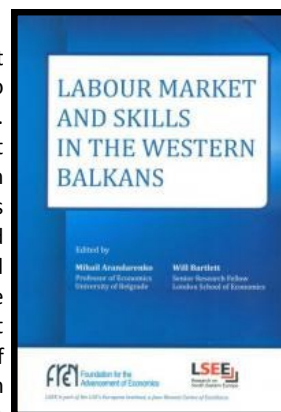


A second edited book, arising from the launch conference of the Research Network held in December 2011, was published in July 2013 under the title "The Social Consequences of the Global Economic Crisis in South East Europe". The book, edited by Will Bartlett and Milica Uvalić, is available for download on the LSEE website. A second conference of the Research Network is being planned for 2014, to be held at LSE in March 2014. Further details of the conference and a call for papers will be published on the LSEE website in September.

Several important publications have also been produced this year. The book 'Labour Market and Skills in the Western Balkans', edited by Drs Mihail Arandarenko and Will Bartlett was published in November 2012. The book presents recent research into the role of workforce skills in underpinning future economic growth in the Western Balkans. It sets out recent thinking on the relation between skill formation, education systems and the labour market, and concludes with some policy recommendations. The book has been published in collaboration with the Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN) at the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade. Several chapters in the book, written by members of the LSEE Research Network, were originally presented as working papers at an international conference on "New Skills for New Jobs" organised by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in Sarajevo

in October 2011, with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. We are especially grateful to Jelica Minić and Nand Shani at the RCC for their encouragement and support for the regional cooperation between researchers from different Western Balkan countries which led to the completion of the book.

Additionally, the book 'The Social Consequences of the Global Economic Crisis in South East Europe' presents a comprehensive snapshot of the current social situation in the post-communist countries of South East Europe, and sheds new light on the nature and depth of the social challenges that the region faces. While the impact of the Eurozone crisis on the peripheral countries of the EU has been well documented, for EU Member States such as Greece, Spain and Portugal, the serious social consequences of the



crisis on the countries of South East Europe have received far less attention. In several countries of the region youth unemployment has become a significant issue, with rates of youth unemployment rising above 60% in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo and other countries not far behind. In 2012, several countries experienced a double dip recession. Being highly integrated into the EU, the region is susceptible to the on-going economic crisis of the Eurozone. New policies for growth, relying far more than in the past on the region's own resources, on more effective regional cooperation, and on a speedier path of EU accession will be essential to overcome the deep social problems that the region faces ●

Network's Page

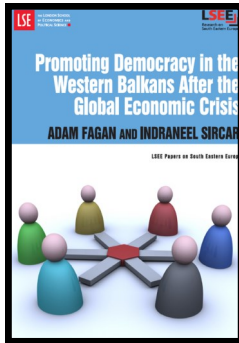
[http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Research/ResNet\\_SocialCohesion.aspx](http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Research/ResNet_SocialCohesion.aspx)

# Publications

## LSEE PAPER SERIES - ISSUE 5

### 'Promoting Democracy in the Western Balkans After the Global Economic Crisis'

The fifth issue of the LSEE paper series by Adam Fagan and Indraneel Sircar, analyses donor assistance for the Western Balkans, which began two decades ago in response to violent conflict and complex transitions during the collapse of Yugoslavia, and which has engendered harsh criticism from academics, commentators and domestic elites and publics. Much of the aid has been targeted towards civil society development, and international donors have become heavily involved in attempts to consolidate change. In this paper, the



authors draw on their vast expertise in the subject area and the region of the Western Balkans, to look at the development of 'civil society organisations' in the region. Using data generated from an extensive survey, the authors seek to answer six fundamental questions in assessing the contribution of donor funding channelled through civil society organizations in the Western Balkans. They sketch out a variety of different aspects of donor interactions with local civil society organisations ranging from types of funding provided

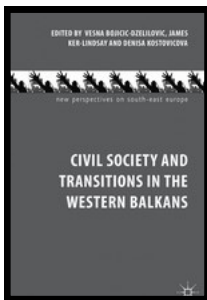
through to agenda setting, priorities and coordination of activities. They highlight the common problem of dependency of local organisations on external funding as well as the competition this causes between civil society organisations in the region.

The paper concludes with a set of four policy recommendations on how to improve donor efforts in developing civil society in the region ●

#### LSEE Paper Series

[http://www2.lse.ac.uk/european\\_institute/research/LSEE/Publications/LSEE\\_Papers.aspx](http://www2.lse.ac.uk/european_institute/research/LSEE/Publications/LSEE_Papers.aspx)

## LSEE & PALGRAVE MACMILLAN BOOK SERIES

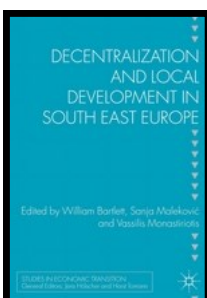


### 'Civil Society and Transitions in the Western Balkans'

This book, edited by Vesna Bojičić Dželilović, James Ker-Lindsay and Denisa Kostovicova (see page 9), examines the ambiguous role played by civil society in state-building, democratisation, and post-conflict reconstruction in the Western Balkans. In doing so, it challenges the received wisdom that civil society is always a force for good. While civil society actors have certainly helped to create the conditions for new, more constructive relations inside and between former Yugoslav countries, in some cases civil society has been at the forefront of rekindled nationalism that has hindered efforts to rebuild South East Europe after the conflicts of the 1990s. The book demonstrates that diverse civil society effects cannot be truly assessed without querying both the nature of civil society and the complexity of the on-going transformation taking place in the region. It also asks how the role of civil society can be harnessed to bring about positive changes in the Balkans? This rigorous case-study driven reappraisal of the ability of civil society to support progressive transformation from an illiberal regime to democracy and from conflict to peace has been deliberately designed to appeal to academics and policy makers alike ●

#### Palgrave Macmillan Series

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=539620>



### 'Decentralisation & Local Development in South East Europe'

The post-communist states of South East Europe (SEE) have a strong commitment to decentralisation as a means to contribute to the consolidation of democracy, and to improve institutions for local economic and social development. However, the experience of transition in post-communist SEE has been to widen regional and local inequalities, creating a vulnerability of the affected regions to external shocks such as the recent economic crisis and consequent threats to political stability. The book explores the nature and effectiveness of policies of decentralization and regional development in this less well studied part of Europe. It identifies the impact of decentralization and regional developments on spatial inequalities, and evaluates the policy responses in different political and institutional environments. The book was edited by Drs Will Bartlett, Sanja Maleković, and Vassilis Monastiriotis ●

## Research by LSEE Staff

### Will Bartlett

My research on the effects of the Eurozone crisis in South East Europe has continued within the LSEE Macroeconomic Research Stream through a research project on "Crisis, Austerity and Growth". A paper on the economic crisis in the 'super-periphery' was presented at the bi-annual conference of the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies, at the Atlantic Council in Washington, and at an international conference on the political economy of austerity and growth at the University of Sheffield. The paper has been accepted for publication by a refereed journal.

Additionally, research within the LSEE Social Cohesion Research Stream has been carried out together with colleagues from the LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion. This has focused on two key areas: social welfare systems and skills development. The first area has investigated whether social protection systems meet the needs of socially excluded minorities, especially disadvantaged Roma communities. Fieldwork carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia has identified significant gaps in social protection systems. The second area, in collaboration with local researchers supported by the European Training Foundation, has revealed how vocational schools in the Western Balkans often fail to prepare young people for participation in the labour market. Continuing research within an FP7-funded project investigates the influence of informal institutions in Moldova and Ukraine on vocational education, skills and the labour market. Together with Professor Milica Uvalić from the University of Perugia, I have edited a book on the social consequences of the economic crisis, recently published by LSEE.

### Vesna Bojičić-Dželilović

The main focus of my research over the last year has been on developing research design for the comparative study of informal power structures and post-conflict reconstruction in the Western Balkans and four African

countries within the framework of DfID-funded programme on Justice and Security in Conflict-Affected Spaces. This project aims to study practices of governance and how public authority works in conflict-affected areas. I am interested in how actors and structures originating in war economy adapt in post-conflict context and shape the exercise of public authority, and the implications this has for a range of economic, political and social outcomes. Another area of research that I have started recently is on human security in the Western Balkans and Turkey in the framework of collaboration between the LSE Security



in Transition Programme and the Citizens' Network for Human Security programme led by the Turkish branch of Helsinki Citizens Assembly. This research programme focuses on three thematic areas: peace and reconciliation; social inclusion and good governance. I have published several single and co-authored papers, including articles in *Security Dialogue*, *East European Politics*, *Studies in Social Justice* and *SudostEuropaMitteilungen*, and co-edited a volume on *Civil Society and Transitions in the Western Balkans*.

### Spyros Economides

In the last year my research has mainly concentrated on the Western Balkans and their international context with a special focus on Kosovo. The relationship between the EU and the Western Balkans was examined in my paper on 'The "European Pull" in the Balkans', in James Mayall, and Ricardo Soares De Oliveira (eds.) *The New Protectorates: international tutelage and the making of liberal states*. (New York: Columbia University Press 2012), while my interest in the case of Kosovo produced among others, Ker-Lindsay, James and Economides, Spyros (2012)

'Standards before status before accession: Kosovo's European perspective', *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern studies*, (Vol, 14, No 1, 2012), and 'The making of a failed state: the case of Kosovo', *European view*, (Vol. 10, No. 2, 2012). Most recently, the broader implications of Kosovo, with specific reference to the issue of self-determination, were developed in Spyros Economides, 'Kosovo-Self-Determination and International Order', *Europe-Asia Studies*, (Vol. 65, No. 5, 2013). More specifically on Greece, I continue to pursue my interest in Greek foreign and security policy and how the current crisis has led to a growing concern over the changing nature of the challenges to Greek foreign and security policy and how they fit into an ever evolving Balkan, European and broader context.

### James Ker-Lindsay

'Over the past year my research has been focused primarily on questions relating to secession and recognition. In late 2012 my book *The Foreign Policy of Counter Secession: Preventing the Recognition of Contested States* was published by Oxford University Press. Examining the ways in which Serbia, Cyprus and Georgia have attempted to prevent the international acceptance of Kosovo, Northern Cyprus, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, it is the first study of this increasingly interesting subject. More recently, my attention has turned to the various legal, political and economic ways in which states can engage with unrecognised territories. This has major practical policy implications and I am currently preparing several articles on the subject. In addition, I have continued my work on conflict management in South East Europe. I am currently finalising an edited volume on the Cyprus Problem for I.B Tauris. I have also been working on a number of book chapters. These include a study of the reasons why Serbia chose to take the question of Kosovo's independence before the International Court of Justice. This will be part of a major edited book on the case that is due to be published by Oxford University Press.

## ... more research by LSEE Staff

### Vassilis Monastiriotis

During the last academic year a significant part of my research focused on the Greek economy and the impact of the crisis. Two papers, on the spatial allocation of public investment in Greece and on the public-private wage differential, were published in the European Urban and Regional Studies and the British Journal of Industrial Relations, respectively; while another, on the Greek dimension of the Eurozone crisis, appeared in Intereconomics in January 2013.

At the same time, however, I maintained a strong focus on SEE, with research concentrating especially on labour market and regional development topics (linked to LSEE's Research Stream on Social Cohesion). This included a paper on "The local labour market impact of public sector employment in Serbia" (with LSEE Visiting Fellow Dr Jelena Lausev-partly funded by ERSTE Stiftung), work on "Employment polarisation in SEE" funded by LSEE's NBG fund on SEE under the Research Programme on "Labour Markets in SEE") and a paper

on "the Nature of Spatial Inequalities in SEE", which came out in the edited volume "Decentralisation and Development in Southeast Europe published by Palgrave Macmillan (co-



edited with Will Bartlett and Sanja Maleković).

Some other pieces of research covering the wider transition region, are currently underway, partly funded by an EU FP7 project ("SEARCH"). These include a paper on the Regional growth process in Central and Eastern Europe; a paper on the FDI spill overs in the ENP countries; and a paper on the Regional impact of trade integration

with the EU. Additionally, I have also been doing some work under the 'Macro-economy' Research Stream, on the formation of CEFTA and on the impact of the crisis in SEE.

Related to these research activities, over the last year I gave various presentations in academic conferences and workshops, including a the University of Illinois, Roskilde University, Georgetown

University's Center for Transnational Legal Studies, the annual conferences of the Greek and European Regional Science Associations, and elsewhere.

### Research Pages

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeainstitute/research/LSEE/Research/Research2.aspx>

## South East European Summer School for Democracy

### Conference: The State of Democracy in the Balkans: Achievements & Failures

On 17 December 2012 LSEE co-organised with the Anglo-Serbian Society a conference entitled The State of Democracies in the Balkans: Achievements and Failures.

The conference discussed these achievements and failures and attempted to identify weak points and threats to those democracies.

The question of further democratic consolidation was also discussed, as well as relations between democratic consolidation and stability in the region. A special effort was made to summarise achievements of the democracies and legacies of previous



totalitarian and authoritarian polities in the region. Effects of the global economic crisis on non-consolidated democracies in the Balkans were assessed, as well as relations between economic development and democracy, political instability and democracy and especially between raising social tensions and their impact on the democracies in the region. Other focal points of the conference were on the ways in which the EU and the international community may help stability and security in the Balkans under the given circumstances. In this sense, possible scenarios were identified.

Special attention was given to the role of Euro-Atlantic integration in the consolidation of democracies in the Balkans.

The conference gathered prominent experts from South-East Europe and the United Kingdom. All panellists were asked to specifically address the achievements and failures of particular countries in the process of democratic consolidation, and to reflect on immediate threats for democracies in the region and the main aspects of regional co-operation that may further democratic consolidation. LSEE's Dr Spyros Economides participated in the event ●



## Visiting Speaker Programme

A series of research and policy seminars

This year, LSEE continued its regular Visiting Speaker Programme.

Held on alternate Tuesday evenings in the

Michaelmas and Lent Terms, the programme has become a leading forum for new and established scholars working on aspects of the contemporary economics, politics and international relations of South East Europe.



The programme started with Professor Stephen Blockmans (University of Leuven and the Centre for European Policy Studies) giving a presentation entitled 'Beyond the Formal Constitution: Clan Culture and the

Tranny of Albania's Ancient Laws'.

This was followed by a talk on the role of veterans in Croatian politics by Vanessa Pupavac (University of Nottingham); modelling public sector wage-employment behaviours in transition economies by Jelena Lausev (University of Belgrade and LSEE visiting fellow); an examination of Serbian foreign policy by Philip Cunliffe (University of Kent) [photo-5]; and territorial autonomy as a form of conflict management in South-eastern Europe by Soeren Keil (Canterbury Christ Church University).

In the second term, the talks continued with a presentation on the role of the international courts and the conflicts in the Former Yugoslavia by Marko Milanović (University of Nottingham) [photos-1,4]; followed by a panel discussion on police reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina with Gemma Collantes Celador (City

University) and Tobias Flessenkemper (German Institute for International and Security Affairs) [photo-3].

The next two presentations were by Max Watson (St. Antony's College, University of Oxford) on Southeast Europe in the wake of the Eurocrisis, and Damiana Otoi (University of Bucharest and LSEE Visiting Fellow) [photo-2] on the Post-Communist Metamorphoses of the "nomenklatura neighbourhood": Privatization and Political Elites in Romania.



Podcasts from many of the talks are available on the LSEE website ●

## 2013-14 Academic Year

Looking ahead, another excellent line-up of topics is expected in 2013-14. Confirmed speakers include Catherine Baker (Hull), Jasna Dragović-Soso (Goldsmiths), Maria Koinova (Warwick), Cvete Koneska, Katarina Lezova, Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers (Roehampton), and Sherrill Stroschein (UCL). We also hope to be able to circulate details of a number of other events in the months ahead.

**Unless otherwise stated, all Seminars take place every second Tuesday in the Cañada Blanch Room (COW 1.11), Cowdray House, Portugal Street, LSE at 18:00.**

Visiting Speaker Programme Page

[http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Visiting\\_Speaker\\_Programme/Home.aspx](http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Visiting_Speaker_Programme/Home.aspx)

## Kosovo's Present & Future ...

Mrs Mimoza Kusari-Lila, Deputy Prime Minister of Trade & Industry



On two separate occasions we had the pleasure of hosting Mrs Mimoza Kusari-Lila, Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Industry. Her talk on **11 October 2012** covered a range of issues, but focused primarily on issues of economic policy and the European perspective. Reflecting a new policy optimism, she opened her speech by asserting that Kosovo should be seen as part of a success story in the Balkans, a story which is predominantly about growth and development and increasingly less about ethnic tensions and conflict management.



James Ker-Lindsay & Kusari-Lila

Continuing, she stressed that priorities of the current government are to tackle high levels of unemployment, especially among the country's youth, and balance the sizeable trade deficits

of the domestic economy: for both, a strategy of industrialization and modernisation is deemed essential.

Her speech also covered issues besides the economy, including the issue of visa liberalisation and the complexities of the north Kosovo Issue. The discussion offered valuable insights into Kosovo's strategic priorities and policy approach both domestically and with regard to regional issues.

On the **14 February 2013**, Mrs Kusari-Lila gave a lecture on the role of Kosovo in the Western Balkans five years after the declaration of independence. At the start of her presentation, the Deputy Prime Minister

provided a brief overview of the main developments that had taken place in Kosovo since 2008 and the considerable efforts that had been made to consolidate its position internationally. Following on from this, she then outlined the key economic, political and social challenges facing Kosovo and the various steps that were being taken to overcome them. In particular, she detailed initiatives to combat corruption as well as the significant efforts to encourage

greater foreign investment. Looking ahead, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasised that while Kosovo would continue to face a number of difficulties in the years ahead, there was nevertheless a real sense of



Kusari-Lila & Vassilis Monastiriotis

optimism that the next five years will see significant progress on the ground and that its efforts to pursue European Union integration would be strengthened. The event was organised in conjunction with the LSE Albanian Students' Society ●

LSEE Events Page

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeainstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Past-Events.aspx>

## Round-Table with Mr Jovan Ratković

LSEE actively encourages dialogue with academics and practitioners. Most of our events and seminars are open to the LSE and broader London community with an interest in the region. Occasionally we hold, 'closed door', off the record briefings and round-tables with politicians and policy-makers. In **October 2012**, we organised such a meeting with Mr Jovan Ratković, who until recently had been Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of Serbia, Boris Tadić. The participants came from the worlds of

academia, policy-making and journalism. It was indeed a great pleasure and of significant interest to be able to engage with such a knowledgeable and key figure in Serbia's foreign policy-making system.

While not being able to attribute specific remarks, comments or questions to any of the participants, one can make a general comment of the topics covered and the issues addressed both in our guest's opening remarks and the discussion that

followed. At the heart of the discussion was of course the question of Kosovo, and likely outcomes of the process of dialogue which had been developing. As a consequence much discussion was had on Serbia's relationship with the EU -and specific EU member states- as well as the future internal political developments in Serbia. We hope to be able to develop these types of meetings in parallel to our more open public events ●

## Panel Discussion: Saved by the Banks

### Growth Challenges & Investment Initiatives in the Balkans

Prompted by the fiscal and economic difficulties that the global and Eurozone crisis has transmitted to the SEE region, on **22 November 2012** we organised a panel discussion on “Growth Challenges and Investment Initiatives in the Balkans”, hosting three excellent speakers, with deep expertise on the SEE economies and on the role of International Financing Institutions for economic development.

Opening the round of presentations, Dr Anthony Bartzokas, Alternate Board Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), offered a highly informative review of the past growth record and prospective growth challenges for the Balkan countries, as a background analysis of his presentation, which was on the rationale and structure of the “New IFI Action Plan for Growth”.

The second speaker, Professor Ivo Bićanić, Professor of Economics at the



(left to right) Vassilis Monastiriotis, Olav Reinertsen, Ivo Bićanić & Anthony Bartzokas

University of Zagreb, focused his presentation on a range of internal problems – structural, institutional as well as cultural—that possibly account for the slow economic recovery of the

region. Among them, he identified the high-&-fast profit expectations mentality (coined as the “Linda Evangelista syndrome”), an entrepreneurial deficit (with business activity being necessity- rather than opportunity-driven), and a culture of aid- and FDI-dependence (“Mannas from Heaven”). The last presentation, by Mr Olav Reinertsen, Head of Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) secretariat within the European Commission’s DG Enlargement, focused on the financial instruments and the structure of support that is provided to the recipient countries. Following the presentations, the discussion opened up, first with some questions from LSEE’s Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis, who was chairing the event, and then with a Q&A session with the audience ●

## Book Launch: Health Reforms in South East Europe

A seminar was held on **19 November 2012** to launch the book on Health Reforms in South East Europe.

We were greatly privileged to have Julian Le Grand, Richard Titmus



(left to right) Will Bartlett, Julian Le Grand & Bernd Rechel

Professor of Social Policy at LSE, to chair the seminar.

Presentations of key themes by the book’s editors, LSEE’s Will Bartlett and Bernd Rechel from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, were followed by critical appraisals by Dr Chris Gerry from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, and Dr Arjan Gjonca from LSE Social Policy. A presentation of the chapter on the Bulgarian health system was made by one of the book’s authors, Dr Antoniya Dimova from the University of Varna.

A lively discussion followed the presentations. The seminar underlined

the importance of research on health reforms in the region and the critical



The audience during the discussion

issue of health financing and the efficiency of health systems expenditure in the current conditions of economic crisis and recession in many countries of the region ●



## Kosovo Dialogue, Agron Bajrami

### Challenges of Economic Development in Kosovo

On **6 November 2012**, LSEE hosted a talk by Agron Bajrami, the editor of Kosovo's leading newspaper, Koha Ditore, on the topic of the European Union sponsored dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.



(left to right) Agron Bajrami & James Ker-Lindsay

As was noted, Kosovo's declaration of independence, in February 2008, had created an entirely new situation in the Western Balkans. Nevertheless, while most of the European Union recognised Kosovo, Serbia remained steadfastly

opposed. However, following the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, in July 2010, the Serbian government had been forced to agree to a process of direct discussions with Kosovo aimed at improving the day-to-day lives of the inhabitants of the region.

This talk reviewed the steps that had been taken thus far.

As was explained, starting in March 2011, the discussions between the two sides covered a range of issues, such as freedom of movement, the handing over of civil registries, the mutual recognition of qualifications and, most importantly, the integrated management of the border/boundary between Serbia and Kosovo.



The audience in the Cañada Blanch Room

However, despite the seeming progress that had been made, it was noted that many challenges lay ahead, including the implementation of the deals already reached and the need for further agreements ●

#### 2012-13 LSEE Events

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Past-Events.aspx>

## Book Launch:

### Civil Society & Transitions in the Western Balkans

On the **14th of March 2013** LSEE hosted a book launch for the recent publication 'Civil Society and

Transitions in the Western Balkans', edited by Drs Vesna Bojičić Dželić, James Ker-Lindsay and Denisa Kostovicova.



The Panel presenting the book

Three very distinguished guests were invited to speak about the book launch, including Professor Adam Fagan, Professor of European politics at Queen Mary University of London, Dr Joanna Hanson, principle research analyst for Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Dr Armine Ishkanian, Lecturer in NGOs and Development at

the London School of Economics Department of Social Policy.

The event was chaired by one of the editors, Dr Denisa Kostovicova, Senior Lecturer in Global Politics at the London School of Economics, Department of Government.

Presentations were delivered by all three speakers who discussed their impressions of the book as well as their backgrounds researching civil society in diverse areas of Eastern Europe.

An interesting debate followed with students and academic experts from the audience ●



## Conference: Croatia's EU Accession

### Economic, Political & Regional Implications



(left to right) Emil Tedeschi,  
Katarina Ott & Vassilis Monastiriotis

On **22 May 2013**, LSEE hosted a one-day conference dedicated to Croatia's accession into the European Union. The opening session of the workshop was dedicated to "The Economic Dimensions of Accession". The two speakers, Professor Katarina Ott (Director, Institute of Public Finance) and Mr Emil Tedeschi (President & CEO, Atlantic Grupa) gave two very interesting and thought-provoking presentations, covering different aspects of Croatia's economy.

The second session of the day focused on the domestic political and social aspects of Croatia's EU accession. The two speakers were Professor Nenad

Zakošek, the Dean of the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Zagreb, and Ines Sabalić, Brussels representative of the City of Zagreb and a well-known journalist. A key theme of their presentations was the general lack of enthusiasm in Croatia towards EU accession.

In the last panel of the day's proceedings the topic for discussion was the regional implications of Croatia's EU accession. The panel consisted of Dr Dejan Jović, chief analyst in the office of the President of Croatia and a faculty member at the University of Zagreb, and Tim Judah of the Economist.



(left to right) Dejan Jović & Tim Judah



(left to right) Nenad Zakošek,  
Ker-Lindsay & Ines Sabalić

The panel started with a short introductory comment by Dr Jović, and Tim Judah made a few introductory remarks and also raised a series of issues and questions with Dr Jović, who of course was speaking in his personal and not official capacity. What followed was a brisk and lively discussion ●

#### Conference page

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Croatias-EU-Accession-Economic,-Political,-and-Regional-Implications.aspx>

## Book Launch: Economic Perspectives of Western Balkan Countries

A seminar at LSEE on **7 May 2013** presented a new book on "Economic and European Perspectives of Western Balkan Countries". The book was written by Slavica Penev, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, with the

assistance of Milica Travica, Head of Financial Market Analysis Unit, Banca Intesa, Belgrade. It was published by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, which has supported a programme of regional cooperation among parliaments in the Western Balkans through a Network of Parliamentary Committees for Finance and Economy.

The report is the outcome of a three-year regional programme initiated by the foundation to strengthen parliaments' role in promoting competitiveness and economic growth in the region. The report analyses recent economic and regulatory reforms

in the region and role of the parliaments in this process. A roadmap has also been developed and agreed by the stakeholders in the six participating countries outlining the country and regional goals to be achieved by 2015.

Alex Romaniuc, a representative of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, spoke about the role of the Foundation in the making of the report.

Dr Fikret Čaušević, Department of Economics, University of Sarajevo also addressed the seminar, which was chaired by Dr Vesna Bojičić Dželić of the Human Security and Civil Society Research Unit at the Department of International Development, LSE ●



The Seminar's Panel

## Turkish Foreign Policy & the Balkans



On **11 May 2013** LSEE visiting fellow Dr Oya Dursun-Ozkanca gave a guest presentation on 'Turkish Foreign Policy and the Balkans: Implications on Transatlantic Security'. In recent years, Turkey has sought to extend its international influence.

One of the key targets of these efforts has been the Balkans, where Ankara has actively sought to build on its religious, cultural and historical affiliations with the countries of the region; a process many pundits and scholars have labelled as 'Neo-Ottomanism'.

But just how far has the Turkish Government been able to use its significant soft power potential to consolidate its political, economic, and cultural influence in the region? Based on extensive interviews with policy makers and opinion formers in the region, this paper provided some insights into this increasingly interesting topic. After discussing the factors contributing to and hindering the soft power potential of Turkey, the

presentation explored the recent track record of the Turkish foreign policy in the region, looking at some of the key case studies such as Bosnia and Kosovo, before offering some insights into the ways in which this recent activism in Turkish foreign policy has made Turkey a more vulnerable international member of NATO.

Dr Dursun-Ozkanca is Assistant Professor of Political Science and the Director of the International Studies Minor at Elizabethtown College, PA. Her research interests include Turkish foreign policy, transatlantic security, NATO, Security Sector Reform, peace-building operations in the Balkans, EU enlargement, and the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU.



Oya Dursun-Ozkanca & James Ker-Lindsay

This very informative discussion was co-organised with the LSE Turkish Studies Programme ●

### Event's page

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Turkish-Foreign-Policy-&-the-Balkans-Implications-on-Transatlantic-Security.aspx>

## EU Leverage & National Interests in the Balkans

On **28 May 2013**, Dr Milada Vachudova, Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, gave a presentation entitled, 'EU Leverage & National Interests in the

Balkans: The Puzzles of Enlargement 10 years on'. This was an extremely well attended seminar in the LSEE series, a testament to the expertise and research reputation of our guest speaker. Dr Vachudova spoke elegantly and concisely on what she saw as some of the major developments in thinking about enlargement and its consequences since the EU took on 10 new members in 2003.

With this in the background, her remarks also took in current prospects for enlargement in the Western Balkans, especially with the case

of Croatia's accession looming so close on the horizon. Her comments also took in Serbia and Bosnia.

Much of the engaging discussion that followed, under the chairmanship of Dr James Ker-Lindsay, focused on a combination of conceptual issues to do with the changing nature of interpreting enlargement and its consequences, and a broad-ranging exchange on the prospects of further enlargement in the Western Balkans. Suffice it to say that the issue of conditionality figured highly in this dialogue.

This was an excellent way for LSEE to finish off its 2012/13 Research Seminar programme ●



Milada Vachudova & James Ker-Lindsay



## Who's Who

### Professor Kevin Featherstone

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