

The **Center for Good Governance Studies**, Belgrade, Serbia
in cooperation with the Good Governance Laboratory (GOGOL)
is launching a Call for Papers
for the Open Access Library edited volume Nr. 1 (OPAL) entitled

TRANSITIONAL GOVERNANCE: Western Balkans and EU Integration

Rationale:

The transitional states of the Western Balkans are on the process of EU integration, some on a faster track, some on a slower one. The question of establishing good governance within them is a burning one. Good governance is a prerequisite for democracy and development, as well as a factor that can contribute immensely to the EU integration process. While Croatia is scheduled to join the EU in 2013, however, the rest of the Western Balkan states, from Bosnia to Albania, demonstrate a cloudy integration future.

According to Perović, democratization in Yugoslavia has always 'been encumbered by fear' from many sides. Vladimir Gligorov wrote in 2006, looking back, how 'there were many mistakes (in the democratization process) in not providing a democratic answer to those who threaten by force'. The question seems to have endured, and can be posed anew in the light of the impending integration process.

The creators of the concept of good governance are the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions. The European Union possesses its own paper on good governance as well. Most donors and international financial institutions base their aid and loans on creating conditions and reforms that will enable good governance. Thus, good governance becomes a *demand* for states seeking loans, but also for states that are on the way to the membership in the European Union. On the other hand, these reforms often mean a decreasing power of political elites (decentralization, deregulation, transparency, accountability, involving numerous stakeholders in the policy making process...). Despite of a declarative commitment to reforms, politicians often reject implementing them in reality, as they see an equality between state power (and capacity) and their own power. Therefore, the question remains how to implement reforms in practice.

This volume seeks to answer the following questions, among others:

- What are the main obstacles in achieving good governance within the fledgling democracies in the Western Balkans?
- Croatia is scheduled to join the European Union in 2013. Is this state going to be a guinea pig on which the other states are going to mold their integration processes?
- How is the Croatian example capable of influencing EU integrations of the neighboring states?
- How are the leisurely democratic reforms and the relative failure to achieve good governance in the Western Balkans slowing down the EU integration process?
- What lies behind Serbia's prolonged integration process? What are the prospects for Bosnia, Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia?
- What are the key questions and problems for achieving good governance within the states of the Western Balkans?
- What are the EU's official and unofficial views on the current processes of developing democracies, good governance and EU integration issues in the Western Balkans?
- What are the cultural prerequisites for achieving good governance and successful EU integration necessary?

The Call for Papers invites contributions in the form of a book chapter/article of the upcoming edited volume (proposed length: 5,000 – 10,000 words). Young researchers are also encouraged to participate, in addition to established scholars.

Disciplinary orientation:

Views from any discipline within the social sciences and humanities are accepted (interdisciplinary studies are especially encouraged). We expect that the most of the proposals will come from the points of view of political science, international relations, sociology and history, but other disciplines are welcomed as well.

Language: English

Deadline for abstracts:

Please send a one page (or less) abstract of the proposal chapter by **January 31, 2013**. Please include (Times New Roman 12, 1.5 spacing, medium margins):

- The name of the proposed chapter
- The abstract
- Key words
- A short biography of the author (several sentences only)

Send the proposal page to the address csdupress@csdu.org.rs

Decision of selection:

Selected authors shall be informed of the decision whether the chapter is accepted by mid-February. If selected, you will be contacted to send the whole chapter/article by **April 15, 2013**.

The edited volume will be published by the Center for Good Governance Studies' CSDU Press as an Open Access volume within the newly formed **OPAL library**.

Since the increase of activity of the Center for Good Governance Studies, the organization has been active successfully in professional and academic project management, and is now expanding its activities to publishing.

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