

**EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: NEW PROSPECTS**

10<sup>th</sup> Annual international conference on European integration

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**Skopje, 21 May 2015**

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**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

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In partnership with:



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**EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: NEW PROSPECTS**  
10th annual international conference on European integration  
Skopje, 21 May 2015

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Welcome to the 10th annual international academic conference on European integration

**EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: NEW PROSPECTS**

**Thursday 21 May 2015**

The major goal of the conference is to take an in-depth look into the state of affairs concerning the vital layers of the architecture of the European Union. This conference will especially seek to explore new and alternative prospects of European integration from a critical and forward looking perspective - one that goes beyond the stalemate in the internal debate and the controversies over future enlargement. As a host institution, UACS aims to emphasize that academia might catalyze an adequate response to the challenges of re-establishing the European Union as a role model not only for the nations of Europe, but beyond.

Major issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to:

- Achieving economic growth, creating jobs, building social cohesion
- Refugee and migration challenges: open societies or Fortress Europe
- Secessionism within the EU
- Freezing the enlargement process – a solution or additional problem?
- Digital tools for achieving political participation and social equality
- European education: challenges to the Bologna process
- The growing importance of cities as engines of economic, regional and territorial development

For centuries the influence and ideas coming from academia have been shaping the world. We look forward to your participation in the one-day conference in Skopje on 21 May, 2015. Join the number of scholars and professionals who will offer their thought-provoking visions and responses to the contemporary challenges that we face.

Sincerely Yours,

Prof. Marjan Bojadjiev, PhD  
UACS Rector



**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**8:45 - 9:20 Registration**

**9:30 - 10:30 Opening ceremony**

***Opening addresses:***

Dr. Fatmir Besimi, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Dr. Christine D. Althaus, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Macedonia

Ms. Nena Trajkovska, Resident representative of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, office Macedonia

Dr. Ivan Dodovski, UACS Assistant Professor and Chairperson of the Conference Organizing Committee

***Official key speakers:***

Dr. Hildegard Schneider, Professor of European Union Law, and Dean of the Law School, Maastricht University, the Netherlands:

*European Integration from the perspective of both students and researchers : Developments in the Past, Present and Future*

***Master of Ceremonies:***

*Dr. Stevo Pendarovski, UACS Associate Professor in International Security and Foreign Affairs*

**10:30-11:00 Coffee break**

**11:00-13:00 Working session 1**

**13:00-13:45 Lunch**

**13:45-15:15 Working session 2**

**15:15-15:30 Coffee break**

**15.30-16:00 Closing plenary session**

***Note: Working language of the conference is English.***

**Prof. Hildegard Schneider, PhD**  
Maastricht University, Netherlands



### **Biography**

Hildegard Schneider is Professor of European Union Law at the Law Faculty of Maastricht University. She studied Law, Political Science and Art History in Freiburg (Breisgau), London, Paris and Münster. She completed her legal education in Germany with the '1. Staatsexamen' in 1980 and the '2. Staatsexamen' in 1986 with distinction. She obtained her Ph.D. defending a thesis entitled 'Die Anerkennung von Diplomen in der Europäischen Gemeinschaft' at Maastricht University. Since 1986, she has worked at Maastricht University, mainly teaching a variety of courses in the area of European Union law as well as Art and Cultural Property law. Her research covers the same areas. She has been a Jean Monnet chair holder in European Migration Law. Since September 2011 she serves as Dean of the Law Faculty and is a member of the Management Team of Maastricht University.

In her research she is particularly interested in the free movement of natural and legal persons and migration issues, the recognition of diplomas and EU policies in the field of education and culture, art law and comparative law. Hildegard is involved in several EU projects including the FP 7 project EURA-NET and the coordination of the Marie Curie ITN Research network TRANSMIC. Furthermore, she teaches European migration law and citizenship, European internal market law, and Law and Art: the free movement of cultural property.

**Working Session 1:**

**Moderator:** Ivan Dodovski, UACS Assistant Professor

**Rapporteur:** Ana Tomovska Misoska, UACS Associate Professor

Jeremy Cripps: *Celebrating European Diversity: Interpretations in Religion, Language, Culture, and Education*

Robert Hudson: *Current Dilemmas Confronting European Security*

Philip Dandolov: *Right-wing Populist Parties and the Mellowing Down of Euroscepticism in Eastern Europe under the Influence of Europeanization*

Ljupcho Stevkovski, Dushko Stojanovski: *Current Situation Confronting Illegal Immigration in the Balkans*

Daniele Del Blanco, Marina Andeva: *Cross Border Cooperation in Europe: Empirical Experiences and Practices*

Kimo Cavdar, Jasmina Dimitrieva, Zoran Sapurik: *European Standards and Principles in the Law on Mediation in the Republic of Macedonia in view of European Directive 2008/52/EC on Cross Border Mediation*

Violeta Bakalchev, Minas Bakalcev, Mitko Hadzi Pulja: *From Transition to Integration, New Prospects of European House*

**Working Session 2:**

**Moderator:** Ivan Dodovski, UACS Assistant Professor

**Rapporteur:** Miodraga Stefanovska, UACS Assistant Professor

Zlat Milovanovic: *Multilingualism and Monolingualism in the Institutions of the European Union*

Stevo Pendarovski, Veno Pachovski, Marko Andonov: *The Promise of E-democracy and Internet: Myths about Digital Agoras?*

Ganka Cvetanova, Veno Pachovski, Irena Bojadzievska: *The EU Citizens' Engagement Initiative and Digital Platforms for Open Policy Making in Finland, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Macedonia*

Ivana Stojanovska, Marjana Vaneva, Biljana Stojcevska: *E-Inclusion: Digital Divide and ICT Acceptance among Elderly People in Macedonia Compared with Bulgaria and Romania*

Nikola Radunovic: *Wireless Montenegro: Free Internet Service for Citizens or Just a Government Project in the European Union Accession Process*

Krum Efremov, Jasmina Majstoroska, Ilijana Petrovska: *South East Europe 2020 Strategy Target Implementation in the Integrated Growth Pillar for Trade and Investment Integration: A Comparative Analysis of SEE countries*

**Closing Plenary Session**

**Moderator:** Stevo Pendarovski, UACS Associate Professor

**Working Session 1:**

**Moderator:** Ivan Dodovski, UACS Assistant Professor

**Rapporteur:** Ana Tomovska Misoska, UACS Associate Professor

**Ivan Dodovski** is Dean of the School of Political Science at University American College Skopje. He studied general and comparative literature with American studies, and obtained an MA degree in Macedonian literature and narratology at Sts. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. He holds a PhD from the University of Nottingham, UK. His recent research in the field of cultural studies is focused on politics and identity representation in contemporary Balkan drama. Dr. Dodovski has edited the volume *Multiculturalism in Macedonia: An Emerging Model* (2005). He has also published academic papers, three poetry books and a collection of short stories.

**Ana Tomovska Misoska** obtained her PhD from the School of Education; Queen's University Belfast. Her research interests are concentrated on exploring children's views and interests in different areas of life. She is especially interested in connecting issues of ethnic identity, culture and language with issues of intercultural education and peace education. She has been involved in a number of research projects and initiatives for educational reforms in the Republic of Macedonia and has presented her research at national and international conferences. Her recent research work is presented in 'Social Context and the Contact Hypothesis: Perceptions and Experiences of a Contact Programme for 10-11 Year Old Children in the Republic of Macedonia' published in McGlynn, C., Zembylas, M., Bekerman, Z. & and Gallagher, T. (eds.) *Peace Education in Conflict and Post-conflict Societies: Comparative Perspectives*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

**Prof. Jeremy Cripps, PhD**

University American College Skopje, Macedonia

[jcripps43@hotmail.com](mailto:jcripps43@hotmail.com)

***Celebrating European Diversity: Interpretations in Religion, Language, Culture, and Education***

This paper celebrates that “most happy and prosperous” period of European integration which occurred in the first century under the Antonines. What led to the decline and fall of that Roman celebration and where lies the potential for a future “most happy and prosperous” celebration of our Diversity in Europe. Four key areas where our diversity may lead to full integration are identified as they were seen to be the foundations of the Antonine period of peace and prosperity throughout the then expanding Roman Empire. The benefits of Diversity particularly for the European Union have been identified by many academics over time. The process of European Integration continues to foster the idea that “we have the ability to achieve (integration), if we master the necessary goodwill, if we determine to become a common European society blessed with a shared culture of peace that is nourished by the ethnic, national and local diversities that enrich our lives.” So the achievement of a broad range of diversity has to become an accepted part of the growth outlook for our European community. It is the role of the international University community, particularly those with a Liberal Arts focus to play a leading role in the move toward Diversity. We may lead recognition of the importance of diversity in strengthening current and future aspirations for peace and development. This paper therefore reflects upon the success of the Antonine period of peace and prosperity and carefully considers the four key areas and the foundation that they may provide as a benchmark for a better and more successful integration across the European continent than is today available.

**Keywords:** European integration, diversity, religion, language, culture, and education.

**Biography**

A Professor of Management and Accounting, Jeremy Cripps entered into the profession in England as an apprentice with Price Waterhouse Coopers and became a Chartered Accountant. Winning a scholarship he then attended Case Western Reserve University graduating and earning a MA in political science. After graduating he rejoined PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Cleveland, became a CPA and worked in Federal and then International Tax. He joined an American multinational as European Controller gaining international experience in managerial accounting, computerized information systems, strategic planning, and compliance with national commercial legislation. Having a young family he transitioned into academia and earned Fulbright Scholarships in Zimbabwe (1994) and Bulgaria (2002). His academic activity included many short-term consultancies with US Aid contractors most recently in Jordan, Iraq, and Tunis. From 2004 to 2011 he set up the ACBSP accredited undergraduate business program at the American University in Kuwait. He returned to the United States and is full-time on the faculty at the University of Findlay, Ohio. On a personal level he celebrates 43 years of happy marriage this year and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

**Prof. Robert Hudson, PhD**

University of Derby, United Kingdom

[r.hudson@derby.ac.uk](mailto:r.hudson@derby.ac.uk)

### ***Current Dilemmas Confronting European Security***

Seventy years after the founders of modern Europe set out to bring stability, union and prosperity to a continent wracked by conflict, Europe and its principal political manifestation, the European Union, is currently confronted with a renewed, and potentially defining struggle against the re-energized forces of internal division and fragmentation, external hostility and encroachment. In the aftermath of Russia's recent dismemberment of a European country by the annexation of Crimea, and its involvement in the armed conflict currently being fought out in eastern Ukraine, Europe finds itself lacking any certainty. Indeed it would seem that, for the first time since the end of the Cold War twenty-five years ago, there are doubts as to whether or not, the European Union's borders any longer remain secure. It is against this backdrop that President Putin's apparent attempts to re-establish 'Soviet-era spheres of influence' affect not only Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, but also Central and Eastern European countries which are much closer to the heart of Europe, such as Bosnia and Serbia, and EU member states such as Hungary and Slovakia. By reviewing the foundations of Euro-Atlantic Security in the aftermath of the Second World War and appraising the Post-Cold War security structure, this paper will consider competing claims in the post-2000 Putin era between Western security institutions and the new Russian security doctrine aimed to control the "near abroad" (former Soviet space). Twenty-five years after the collapse of Communist regimes in Eastern Europe are we now at the end of the End of the Cold War? By considering the new security threats to Europe, this paper will assess today's European security agenda, or the lack of it. With its security focus elsewhere in the world, perhaps the United States might not be able to guarantee European security today. Perhaps the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative proved to be too ambitious in the light of recent developments. Has the crisis in Ukraine re-opened Cold War wounds, and what are the regional repercussions of this lingering conflict? Indeed, have any mistakes been made by the Western Alliance in its approach to Russia's legitimate interests. Has the West made an (un)intentional contribution to the current state of affairs and what is the future of the political and security order in Europe?

**Keywords:** European Security, the European Partnership initiative, NATO, sanctions, self-determination, nationalism, national identity, lingering conflicts, and 'the end of the End of the Cold War'.

### **Biography**

Robert Hudson is University Professor in European History and Cultural Politics at the University of Derby. He was formerly Head of European Studies, and has been a European Union Jean Monnet Scholar since 1995. A graduate of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, he held a Yugoslav government scholarship as a Post-Graduate Fellow at the University of Sarajevo. In the 1980s he was a lecturer at Exeter College of Art and Design and at the University of Rennes (France). Hudson was a faculty member of the EU Marie-Curie - funded European Doctoral Enhancement Programme (EDEN) in Peace and Conflict Studies (1997 – 2009). He has re-visited Yugoslavia and its

successor states frequently since 1995 and during the 1990s participated on six missions with the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) as an election supervisor in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, Serbia and the Bosnian Serb Republic (*Republika Srpska*). He co-edited *Politics of Identity: Migrants and Minorities in Multicultural States* (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2000), *Different Approaches to Peace and Conflict Research* (University of Deusto, 2008) and *Peace, Conflict and Identity: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Research* (University of Deusto, 2009), *Land and Identity* (Rodopi, 2011), *After Yugoslavia: Identities and Politics within the Successor States* (Palgrave/MacMillan in 2012) and *Affective Landscapes* (Ashgate, 2015). He has recently completed the translation of 49 Serbian and Croatian children's folktales and short stories from the South Slav communities of Socialist Hungary. In December 2014, he was appointed Senior Fellow of the United Kingdom's Higher Education Academy for thirty-five years contribution to teaching and research in higher education. Hudson's research is rooted in the histories and cultural politics of conflicts and post-conflict aftermaths; with a focus on inter-ethnic conflict, the politics of identity formation and the representation of ethnic minorities in Europe. He teaches on European cultural identities and ethnic minorities in Europe at both undergraduate and masters' levels.

**Philip Dandolov, PhD**

AURE (Agency for Sustainable Development and Euro integration)

[philip.i.dandolov@bath.edu](mailto:philip.i.dandolov@bath.edu)

***Right-wing Populist Parties and the Mellowing down of Euroscepticism in Eastern Europe under the Influence of Europeanization***

This paper examines two cases in which the European Union (mainly through its normative influences) reduces the playing space for nationalist parties or is a factor in their declining electoral fortunes. Nevertheless these influences have not resulted in any marked transformation of the parties' ideologies in a staunchly anti-EU fashion. The Ataka party in Bulgaria (led by Volen Siderov) and the HZDS in Slovakia (chaired by Vladimir Meciar) both exemplify the principle of charismatic leadership and are regarded as strongly focused on nationalism, while also exhibiting populist and anti-establishment leanings. Ataka reached the height of its popular support between the mid and late 2000s and is currently represented in the National Parliament of Bulgaria. On the other hand, the HZDS was a significant factor in Slovak politics between the Velvet Divorce and the late 1990s, but is no longer active, as it was dissolved in January 2014. The conclusion reached by comparing the fortunes of these factions is that encouraging the imposition of a direct or indirect "*cordon sanitaire*" by the mainstream parties on anti-establishment ones under the direction of the EU could actually have a beneficial effect in terms of altering the party's orientation and moving its opposition to the EU within the "soft Euroscepticism" spectrum.

**Keywords:** Euroscepticism; Europeanization; nationalism; populism; Eastern Europe; Slovakia; Bulgaria; partization.

**Biography**

Philip Dandolov earned his Ph.D. degree in European Union Studies from the University of Bath in June 2014. Prior to that he was enrolled as a student at the University of Leiden, where he finalized his MA studies in the same field. He is also an alumnus of the University of Toronto, from which he graduated in 2009, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree - a double Major in European Studies and Peace & Conflict Studies. His current research interests include the Europeanization of political parties, nationalism in Eastern and Western Europe, the various dimensions of Euroscepticism, and nation-branding. During the second half of the year 2014 he did an internship at the Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration - Ecoregions (AURE) in Sofia.

**Ljupcho Stevkovski, PhD, Prof. Dushko Stojanovski, PhD**  
University American College Skopje, Macedonia  
[stevkovski@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:stevkovski@uacs.edu.mk) ; [dusko.stojanovski@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:dusko.stojanovski@uacs.edu.mk)

***The Current Situation Confronting Illegal Immigration in the Balkans***

The research focus of this paper covers the phenomenon of illegal immigration as an asymmetrical threat, and the importance of the Balkan region as a transit zone to the countries of the European Union. It considers the role of counter measures, weaknesses in the transit process and the immigration system as a whole, whilst indicating possible solutions to the problem. The hypothesis is that the lack of a clear and coordinated strategy at the European Union level, in terms of dealing with the problem of illegal immigration, affects the situation with regard to this phenomenon having deteriorated and having become ever more complicated at all levels of implementation. The increase in the flow of illegal migrants from the Middle East (Syria and Iraq) and North Africa will continue to be one of the key problems confronting the European Union and the transit countries of the Balkans. The Balkans will continue to be affected, primarily as a transit destination for a large number of migrants who intend to go on to Western Europe, with some migrants probably wishing to seek asylum seeker status and remain in some countries of the Balkan region. . It is expected that this reality will adversely affect the socio-economic and security situation. Because of the involvement of local logistical networks, the increasing number of migrants will further intensify crime and corruption in transit countries in the Balkans. The key point of this research is based on the hypothesis that a more significant strategy in dealing with the phenomenon of illegal immigration could hardly be carried out without considering the entire geopolitical space of the European continent. Thus, we recommend that the integration of the Western Balkans in the European Union has to be an immediate priority for Brussels rather than a long-term strategy, as it is now. The research framework of the phenomenon of illegal immigration involves using the method of content analysis and a critical review of the way this issue is tackled at a European level.

**Keywords:** illegal immigration, Balkans, European Union, integrations, security, asymmetric threats.

**Biography**

Ljupcho Stevkovski holds a PhD degree from the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus” in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. He has a vast academic and practical knowledge stemming from his rich portfolio. Since 2011 Dr Stevkovski has been an elected Professor at the University “American College” Skopje, teaching War and Diplomacy, Conflict management, Political culture and Conflict Resolution and Mediation. Additionally, he has an impressive track record working for the Macedonian National Security Bodies. His main research interests are related to regional security in the Western Balkans, security sector reforms, conflicts, foreign policy, right wing extremism, terrorism, radical religious groups, and energy policy.

Dushko Stojanovski holds a PhD degree in Criminal Law from the Faculty of Security at the Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. Since 2010, Dr. Stojanovski has been an elected Professor at the “University American College Skopje”, teaching Criminal Law, Criminal Justice Law, International Criminal Law, Criminal Law – cases, Criminology, Criminalistics, War Crimes & Human Rights Protection, Terrorism & Human Rights, and Conflict Management. His main research interests are related to investigation of crime, homicide investigations in the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, criminal justice law and international humanitarian law.

**Daniele Del Banco, PhD, Marina Andeva, PhD**  
University of Trieste, Italy  
University American College Skopje, Macedonia  
[delbianco@isig.it](mailto:delbianco@isig.it); [marina.andeva@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:marina.andeva@uacs.edu.mk)

***Cross-border Cooperation in Europe: Empirical Experiences and Practices***

This paper will presents an overview of the existing analytical approaches to cross-border cooperation and serves as a tool for decoding cross-border co-operation (CBC) processes across Europe. Taking stock of the research-led experience on CBC issues developed by ISIG – the Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale di Gorizia, the papers consider the multifaceted nature and goals of CBC and aims to present different perspectives which are useful for the understanding of these processes. In fact, cross-border cooperation could be described either as a process aiming to overcome sedimented fractures in the history of states, or as an instrument with which regional continuity is being generated reducing the Westphalian principles of state sovereignty, or even as a system of continuous efforts to reduce the effects of borders as territorial frontiers since borders no longer exist in Europe (ISIG, 2011). Such cooperation is held to bring positive consequences to the territories in which it operates; it testifies that facilitated regional continuity across borders allows for socio-economic development and mutual understanding whilst promoting overall European integration. The paper presents the results from relevant research activities carried out by ISIG under the auspices of the Council of Europe, and pinpoints a number of possible analytical tools to depict cooperative processes across borders as well as introducing a new tool developed by the Council of Europe, the so-called EDEN platform; a database containing best practices of CBC collected from European actors.

**Keywords:** Cross-border cooperation; regional policy; territorial communities; EU; Council of Europe.

**Biography**

Daniele Del Bianco, BSc (LSE-UK), MA, PhD (UniTS-IT) has been ISIG Director since 2012 and a researcher since 2004. He is a lecturer at the University of Trieste in Sociology of Development. His main fields of research and study are: European policy making (and participatory processes), local sustainable development, border studies and security studies. He has published academic articles in Italian and international journals and volumes on these topics and is frequently invited as a speaker to various conferences in these fields.

Marina Andeva is a Visiting Lecturer at the UACS School of Political Science. Her other working engagements include the position of Research Fellow at the Institute of International Sociology in Gorizia (ISIG) since 2009. She finished her PhD in Transborder Policies for Daily life and her MA in Methods in European Policy Making at the University of Trieste, Italy. She has a BA in Law from the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus”, University Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia.

**Prof. Kimo Cavdar, PhD, Jasmina Dimitrieva, PhD, Prof. Zoran Sapurik, PhD**

University American College Skopje, Macedonia

[cavdar@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:cavdar@uacs.edu.mk); [jasminadmik@yahoo.com](mailto:jasminadmik@yahoo.com)

***European Standards and Principles in the Law on Mediation in the Republic of Macedonia in View of European Directive 2008/52/EC on Cross Border Mediation***

Mediation, as an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) method, represents the fastest, the most accessible, and the most cost-effective way to resolve disputes. In the Republic of Macedonia, mediation is regulated by the Law on Mediation. It has been introduced in the Macedonian legal system as a counter-measure to problems identified in the judiciary, such as an unreasonable length of proceedings and ineffectiveness, since mediation is thought to enable speedy and effective dispute resolution.

The authors provide an analysis of the applicable European standards and principles, which have an impact on the regulation of mediation in the Macedonian legal system. Mediation legislation from Italy, France, Germany and the UK is analyzed in order to learn from their experiences in the transposition of the EU cross-border mediation directive. The scope and effectiveness of the Macedonian Law on Mediation is further analyzed, as well as the transposition of the EU cross-border mediation directive in the Macedonian legislation, with a view to eventual EU integration.

The results of this research show that mediation is not only needed in Macedonia for the sake of ticking a box with regard to legal approximation with the EU. On the contrary, it has a great potential to enable effective, just and less expensive long-term solutions in the legal traffic when certain conditions, such as mediation quality, legal certainty, public confidence and an understanding of the process are met. Recommendations are provided regarding the enhancement of the legal infrastructure as well as the manner for the effective implementation of mediation. The need to raise the awareness of citizens and their understanding of mediation as the first stage of the dispute resolution procedure, should prevent the judicial settlement of disputes, and thus help save time and money.

The methods used encompass legal analysis, comparative analysis and desk research. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with experts from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), from the European Policy Institute (EPI), from the Macedonian Center for Mediation and from the Judicial Strengthening Project. Information has been collected and collated from the Chamber of Mediators, MoJ, EPI and the EU website.

**Keywords:** mediation, peaceful dispute resolution, extra-judicial settlement of disputes, civil procedure, Directive 2008/52/E3

### **Biography**

Kimo Cavdar, PhD is associate professor at the American College in Skopje. He has worked as a professor for five years and his experience is primarily in the area of civil law and trade law. He had worked for more than six years as a lawyer in his law office. He has published over 25 papers, two textbooks and several comments on civil laws.

Jasmina Dimitrieva is a legal and human rights consultant. She graduated as a lawyer with a doctoral degree in international public law, with focus on European election standards and on EU law. Dimitrieva has more than 20 years work experience in public international law that she gained while working for the EU integration unit in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, for the European Court of Human Rights, for the Council of Europe and for the OSCE missions in Macedonia and Kosovo, primarily on the rule of law and human rights' issues. She is an author of a monograph and several articles focusing on free and fair elections, the European Convention on Human Rights and hate crimes.

Zoran Sapurik holds doctoral degree from the Sts Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and a Certificate. His main areas of interest are the European Union and the environment. He has published several books and more than twenty papers in international Journals. He was Minister of the Environment and Physical Planning in the Government of Macedonia.

**Violeta Bakalchev, MSc, Minas Bakalčev, PhD, Mitko Hadzi Pulja, PhD**

University American College Skopje, Macedonia

University Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Architecture, Skopje, Macedonia

[metaproekt@gmail.com](mailto:metaproekt@gmail.com); [minasbakalcev@gmail.com](mailto:minasbakalcev@gmail.com); [mitkohadzipulja@gmail.com](mailto:mitkohadzipulja@gmail.com)

***From Transition to Integration, New Prospects of the European House***

Changes in society can appear in dwellings, as part of the process of living and its physical expression. In this sense, the long term transition of the political and economic system of the former socialist countries is most dramatically affected in housing. . Although, in a greater part, most houses remained an unchanged heritage from the past, and certain models continued to be repeated, their perception, use and practice were increasingly changed as a reflection of changing socio-cultural models. Former schemes of social housing that were implemented from top to bottom, meaning spatial functional and social unification around a common ideal, essentially changed due to the pluralist and conflicting interests of their residents. While different values, backgrounds and life styles showed decentralized tendencies, there remained the question about the mode of convergence of all the diversities, to enable coherence within a community. How can the differences be expressed and find the basis for their integration at the same time? Can a community be composed of an aggregation of individual inputs? Is it possible to create an integrated European city out of disparate houses? These questions are not only a metaphor of the long-lasting process of the integration of different European heritages and practices, but are essential to understanding the fundamental condition of living in residential units where local and global challenges of European citizens meet. The research will be developed on two levels, first, through the transformation of a residential area taking as an example, the buildings originating from the 1950s in a settlement within Skopje city, second, by the description of two conflicting models of integration performed in two contemporary films. Thus The process of transition of the residential area and possible points of integration will be demonstrated. Searching for a shared language for the contemporary house, this investigation will summarize the new prospects for the house arising from both the contradictory processes within a defined spatial frame and contradictory transformations of the existing spatial frame of the house.

**Keywords:** House transition, transformation, integration, process of living, life style.

**Biography**

Violeta Bakalchev obtained her M.Sc. in the field of Architecture and Design from the University American College, Skopje, School of Architecture and Design, Skopje, Macedonia. She currently holds the position of Assistant Professor at the University American College Skopje where she teaches subjects connected with architectural design. She has worked on a number of projects and investigations in Macedonia and in neighboring countries. Her research interest is focused on the different aspects of the modern residential projects and their role as a reference level for the research of the permanence and variability of the spatial, program basis of modernity.

Minas Bakalchev is an architect and professor at the Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Architecture, Skopje, with a grad. eng. arch. from the Faculty of Architecture, Skopje, an M.Sc. from the Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, and a Ph. D. in Technical Sciences from the Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje. He was co-curator of the Macedonian National Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2006 and got a mention for the project "City of Possible Worlds". Under the acronym MBMHP, he worked together with Prof. Dr. Mitko Hadzi Pulja on architectural projects, workshops and exhibitions. For their works, they won many city and national awards. He believes that architecture can change the world in the way the world changes us.

Mitko Hadzi Pulja is an architect and professor at the Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Architecture, Skopje, with a grad. eng. arch. from the Faculty of Architecture, Skopje, an M.Sc. from the Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, a Ph.D. in Technical Sciences from the Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje. Like Dr. Bakalchev, he was co-curator of the Macedonian National Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2006 and got a mention for the project "City of Possible Worlds". Under the acronym MBMHP, he worked together with Prof. Dr. Minas Bakalchev on architectural projects, workshops and exhibitions. For their works, they won many city and national awards. He believes that architecture can change the world in the way the world changes us.

**Prof. Zlat Milovanovic, PhD**

University of American College Skopje, Macedonia

[milovanovic@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:milovanovic@uacs.edu.mk)

***Multilingualism and Monolingualism in the Institutions of the European Union***

The European Union (E.U.) policy on languages is based on multilingualism, that is on respect for the equality and parity of all 24 official and working languages (of the 28 member states). The E.U. functions in all those languages thanks to translation and interpretation, with a few exceptions. Three so-called “procedural languages” (English, French and German) are used in the Commission for its internal work. French is also given working preference in the Court of Justice of the E.U. Multilingualism helps transparency in the work of the institutions, facilitates communication with European citizens and heightens efficiency. The 47-state Council of Europe, by comparison, while recognizing the equality of all its languages, has opted for two working languages in its institutions and five in its Parliamentary Assembly. There is no common language in Europe and monolingualism is not under consideration for the time being. Among Europeans, English is the first language of mutual communication, French being the second. Europe, however, has a long history of functioning monolingualism and one language being used in diplomacy, international relations, and intellectual life. In real life, the equality and parity of languages cannot be maintained for an extended time as the international community tends to function in one or a few languages, mainly for practical purposes but also to diminish the advantages enjoyed by the native speakers of working or official languages. Languages in general convey the cultures of their native speakers, as well as their concepts, qualities, relations and terms (called “universals” in philosophy). The United States, for instance, does not have an official language by law, yet de facto, English has grown into that role. This paper is dedicated to the search for an ideal solution for the E.U. institutions, which would make not only states but also their citizens more equal. The E.U. and other European organizations and their institutions will eventually need a common language in addition to all languages currently in use, if they are to achieve a broader social integration, a sense of European citizenship, new opportunities for study and work in wider geographic areas, and businesses able to reach out to all parts of the Single market while being more competitive abroad. This paper is divided into four parts: multilingualism in the E.U., legal aspects, monolingualism, and the future. European and other languages can definitely serve peace, development and the general progress of the global world as we know it.

**Keywords:** multilingualism, monolingualism, official, working and procedural languages, European institutions, linguistic minorities, E.U. non- member states, role of language.

**Biography**

Zlat R. Milovanovic, Ph.D. is a Professor Honoris Causa, formerly Professor and Vice Rector of University American College Skopje. He holds a Ph.D. in International relations from Temple University and a Doctorate of Public Law from the University of Nancy, as well as an M.A. in European studies. Formerly he taught International law and Political Science at Boston University Graduate School, Temple University and Glassboro State University. He also lectured and attended international and other conferences in the U.S., Europe and Africa. He has authored publications on many topics and in a host of languages. He is a member of the American Society for International Law (ASIL), the American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Austral-Asian Section of the Academy of International law.

**Prof. Stevo Pendarovski, PhD, Prof. Veno Pachovski, PhD, Prof. Marko Andonov, PhD**

University of American College Skopje, Macedonia

[pendarovski@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:pendarovski@uacs.edu.mk); [pachovski@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:pachovski@uacs.edu.mk); [andonov@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:andonov@uacs.edu.mk)

***The Promise of E – Democracy and the Internet: Myths about Digital Agoras?***

The advance of digital technology in the field of politics in the last 20 years has raised expectations about enhancing the potentials of the long dominant model of representative democracy. In the meantime, technological gadgets, and, especially the great versatility of Internet applicability have indeed contributed to far better communication between the political elites and their people and for the sharing of information on an unprecedented level. Yet, the key challenge still seems to be barely touched upon: how to provide a meaningful participation of politically awakened individuals in decision-making processes within states. In this paper we offer a brief survey of the world-wide achievements in the field of e-voting and Internet-voting in order to show how political, technical and security concerns are prevailing in the debates thus weakening any trust in the new modes of casting votes. Also, we present the results of an inquiry carried out with the student population in the Republic of Macedonia and their thoughts and concerns on the desirability of the eventual role of Internet voting in the country. We would argue that the immense possibilities for using the Internet in politics are far from being fully exploited, so that any initial miscalculation and failures should not discourage communities from observing new pathways for improving the unavoidable digital component of democracy.

**Keywords:** Internet, digital technology, e-democracy, e-voting, citizens,

**Biography**

Stevo Pendarovski is Associate Professor in International Security and Foreign Affairs at the School of Political Sciences at University American College Skopje. In the 1990s he was an Assistant-Minister for Public Relations and Head of the Analytical and Research Department in the Macedonian Ministry of Interior Affairs. In the last decade he had served as National Security and Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to two Presidents of the Republic of Macedonia. In 2004/5 he was a Head of the State Election Commission. His teaching and research areas include geopolitics, globalization, national security, US foreign policy, EU foreign and security policy, and small states in international affairs.

Veno Pachovski was born in Skopje, in the Republic of Macedonia in 1965. He graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, at the State University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, in 1989, completed MSc in Mathematics and Computer Science in 2000 and gained his PhD in Computer Science at the same University in 2007. Since 2007, he teaches a variety of courses at the University American College – Skopje, mainly within the School of Computer Sciences and Information technology (SCSIT). His fields of expertise include Databases, Information systems and Natural language processing.

Marko Andonov holds a PhD in the field of Business Law from The Sts. Cyril and Methodius University Skopje. Currently, he is a Dean of the School of Law within University American College Skopje. At the same time, as Assistant Professor, he teaches courses in Company Law, Financial Law and Labor Law. His teaching and research areas are also related with the Securities Law as well as the legal aspects of investments funds. His work experience includes a supervisory position in the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Republic of Macedonia. As an expert, Dr. Marko Andonov has participated in the preparation of several bylaws that derive from the Securities Law. Also, he was a member of the working group that prepared the Law on Investment Funds of the Republic of Macedonia. Among other activities, he has been elected as an educator in the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia in the fields of Company Law and Labor Law.

**Prof. Ganka Cvetanova, PhD, Prof. Veno Pachovski, PhD, Irena Bojadzievska, PhD**

University Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia

University of American College Skopje, Macedonia

Ministry of Information Society, Macedonia

[ganka968@yahoo.com](mailto:ganka968@yahoo.com); [pachovski@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:pachovski@uacs.edu.mk); [irena.bojadzievska@gmail.com](mailto:irena.bojadzievska@gmail.com)

***EU Citizens' Engagement Initiative and Digital Platforms for Open Policy Making in Finland, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Macedonia***

This paper evaluates the digital platform for citizens' engagement in the process of open policy making in the Republic of Macedonia, in comparison with the digital platforms in Finland and the United Kingdom, based on the EU initiative for citizens' engagement. The methodological approach in this research relies on the analysis of governments' politics on the open policymaking process, as well as the digital platforms and digital tools used for this purpose. The open policy-making process was analyzed in all three countries from the following aspects: the legal basis, reforms in the public sector, and tools that enable citizens' engagement and civil society reflections. For this purpose, we analyzed the findings from the civil society organizations that monitor a government's performance in open policy-making. It should be emphasized that in this study the issue of open policy-making was analyzed from the perspective of the highest political level, the national level. As the findings of the study suggest, all of the three countries concerned have a strong commitment to open policy-making processes and established these processes by certain legal instruments. The research uncovered that in the UK and Macedonia the process of developing capacities to carry out the consultations was attributed to reforms in the public sector. Unlike these two cases, in the case of Finland no major public sector reforms were implemented, thus the leadership of open policy-making is in the hands of civil society. Also, the findings showed that in all three cases there is a legitimacy given to civil society organizations and the feedback they give has a strong impact on open policy-making. Yet, in some of the cases there are still persistent obstacles to be overcome in order to empower the impact of citizens on the final outcome in the process of open policy-making.

**Keywords:** open policy-making, citizens' engagement, digital platform, governments' politics, civil society organizations.

**Biography**

Ganka Cvetanova was born in Skopje, in the Republic of Macedonia in 1968. She graduated from the Faculty of Music Art in 1989, completed her MA at the same institution in 1994, and gained her PhD in Sociology at the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research (ISPPI) at the University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje in 2006. Between 2008 and 2010 she was a visiting professor at the University American College – Skopje. She participated in many domestic and international conferences as a lecturer and moderator. Currently, as an Associate Professor, she is the head of the postgraduate cultural studies department at ISPPI and teaches Culture and Identity; Ethnic Identity; Cultural Politics and Cultural Institutions; Digital Culture; New Media and Democracy.

Veno Pachovski was born in Skopje, in the Republic of Macedonia in 1965. He graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, at the State University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, in 1989, completed an MSc in Mathematics and Computer Science in 2000 and gained his PhD in Computer Science at the same University in 2007. Since 2007, he has been teaching a variety of courses at the University American College – Skopje, mainly within the School of Computer Sciences and Information technology (SCSIT). His fields of expertise include Databases, Information systems and Natural language processing. Lately, his research activities have been aimed towards social networks and social media in general.

Irena Bojadzievska holds a Doctorate in political science (PhD on e-Government), from the Institute for sociological, political and judicial research, at the University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje. She also had a specialization in European Contemporary studies, at the Institute for European Studies, University of Birmingham, UK (in 2008) and holds a Masters in International and European Comparative Law, LLM, from the Institute for European Studies, *Vrije Universiteit Brussels*, Belgium. Since 2012, she has been working at the Ministry of Information society and administration, Department for telecoms and media, as a Councilor for audiovisual media policy, and a national coordinator for open data, and a focal point for OGP.

**Ivana Stojanovska, MSc, Prof. Marjana Vaneva, PhD, Biljana Stojcevska, PhD**

University American College Skopje, Macedonia

[ivana.stojanovska@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:ivana.stojanovska@uacs.edu.mk); [vaneva@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:vaneva@uacs.edu.mk); [stojcevska@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:stojcevska@uacs.edu.mk)

***E-Inclusion: Digital Divide and ICT Acceptance among Elderly People in Macedonia Compared to Bulgaria and Romania***

Despite the rapid increase of digital technologies, a significant proportion of the global population continues to be digitally excluded. According to the National strategy for e-inclusion, in Macedonia the age group from 55 to 74 years uses computers and the Internet significantly less than other age groups, thereby indicating a high disparity compared with other age groups. Based on the fact that elderly citizens are a strongly growing population group in our society, the use of the Internet and ICT for older people is essential. But, it is doubtful whether the mere provision of computer courses or free Internet access is sufficient to reach an inclusive information society. Around 120 million European citizens have never used the Internet, with age being the principal factor. Bulgaria and Romania are both among the top five countries that have the highest rates of non-users in the EU. According to the Digital Agenda for Europe and Eurostat data statistics on digital literacy, both Bulgaria and Romania have a substantial percentage of the population missing from the picture on Internet usage. But, both of them have experienced reductions in the past, whose practices have to be encountered in the process of reducing the rate of non-users in Macedonia, towards the decreased digital divide. According to AGE, the Digital Agenda for Europe calls for a halving of the proportion of the population that has never used the Internet (to 15%) by 2015. Therefore, this paper reviews a part of the literature regarding the use of digital technologies among older people in the EU, as well as EU directions for overcoming the digital divide. The paper concludes with some suggestions and strategies with regard to the specific context.

**Keywords:** Internet, digital technology, digital divide, e-Inclusion, elderly citizens.

**Biography**

Ivana Stojanovska has a masters degree in computer science in the field of Software and Application Development. Currently she is a PhD student at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies in Skopje. She has more than eight years of working experience as a research and teaching assistant at several computer-oriented modules, and currently she is an assistant at the School of Computer Science and Information Technology at UACS. She has development and research experience in several fields and is motivated and inspired to leverage advanced software technologies. She has a deep understanding of algorithms and also very good knowledge on programming.

Marjana Vaneva is an Associate Professor and Dean of the School of Foreign Languages at the University American College Skopje. As a graduated teacher of English who holds an MA and a PhD in Linguistics from the Sts. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, she mainly teaches subjects from the field of English grammar to English language students at undergraduate and graduate level. Her research interests are in the domain of applied linguistics, cognitive linguistics, semantics, contrastive analysis, language testing, and morphology. Explorations of word formation processes and the use of metaphors in language are of particular importance to her.

Biljana Stojcevska has been an Assistant Professor at the School of Computer Science and Information Technology at the University American College Skopje since 2011. She finished her PhD at the Institute of Informatics, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje in the field of TCP Congestion Control. Her research interests are focused in the area of computer networks, especially in network congestion management.

**Nikola Radunovic, MSc**

University of Montenegro, Podgorica, Montenegro

[indoktrinacija@yahoo.com](mailto:indoktrinacija@yahoo.com)

***Wireless Montenegro: Free Internet Service for Citizens or Just a Government Project in the European Union Accession Process***

The progress of the state administrations on Montenegro's path towards accession to the European Union, is reflected in the 33 chapters of negotiations in. One of the most important chapters concerns Information Society and Media, which among other things seeks to raise transparency, political participation and social inclusion. The authorities are working on the improvement and promotion of the information society, and are trying to enable citizens to use ICT in order to achieve certain rights similar to those that may be found in developed European countries. The recently launched project, Wireless Montenegro, aims to enable free wireless internet to all citizens, including access to various electronic services that have been imposed through the negotiation process. Is "Wireless Montenegro" just another project that needs to simulate a real commitment by the Montenegrin government to promote a democratic environment and reduce social exclusion, or is it an honest and well-envisaged project? To illustrate the situation in the Montenegrin towns, we used quantitative analysis. We have compared the situation with the neighbouring country Croatia which is an EU member state, concerning the number of connections to free wireless networks, the number of access points and the dynamics of development, as well as the expansion plans of the project. Together with the results of the citizen survey and qualitative analysis of the socio-economic environment and the complex political reality, it was concluded that Wireless Montenegro represents yet another project which failed in its function. Explaining the potential reasons why the state administration is not more committed to fostering an ICT environment, recommendations were offered to accelerate the achievement of European objectives and the development of e-democracy.

**Keywords:** Wireless Montenegro, negotiations, European Union, e-democracy, participation.

**Biography**

Nikola Radunović is a PhD student at the Faculty of Political Science in Podgorica, Montenegro. The field of his research is media and communication, and in particular he is interested in communication issues concerning citizens and government in general. He is currently working on his dissertation which aims to explain all the factors and their influence to the process of implementing e-governance. He has a master's degree in Electrical Engineering as well as in Economics. He has twenty years of experience with the media, but also his professional activities are related to the implementation of telecommunications and ICT equipment and services.

**Krum Efremov, PhD, Jasmina Majstoroska, PhD, Prof. Ilijana Petrovska, PhD**

University American College Skopje, Macedonia

[efremov@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:efremov@uacs.edu.mk) ; [jmajstoroska@yahoo.com](mailto:jmajstoroska@yahoo.com); [petrovska@uacs.edu.mk](mailto:petrovska@uacs.edu.mk)

***South East Europe 2020 Strategy Target Implementation in the Integrated Growth Pillar for Trade and Investment Integration: A Comparative Analysis of SEE Countries***

The topic of this research is a deeper analysis and comparison of one of the pillars of the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy in the SEE countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia). SEE 2020 as a strategy for the region inspired and based on EU 2020 principles, reflects the determination of all governments in South Eastern Europe to facilitate integration into the EU. The SEE 2020 Strategy, especially the Integrated Growth Pillar, is related to promoting deeper regional trade and investment linkages and policies that are transparent and predictable and are not discriminatory. Of key importance in reaching the targets of creating new jobs and prosperity is bigger regional trade and investment that will actually increase the market size and offer the opportunity for economies of scale. This will increase competitiveness and enhance participation in international supply chains, ultimately furthering the integration of the region into European and global economies. The main research question of this paper is the level and the dimensions of the implementation of trade and investment integration targets in SEE countries, in increasing the intra-regional trade in goods by more than 140% and increasing the overall FDI annual inflow to the region by at least 160%. The research methodology for this paper is a comparative analysis of quantitative data and a review of last years' published official institutional reports and scientific articles. The authors will provide an updated overview of the situation in the South East European countries with critical analysis of the different respective actions and projects needed for achieving the SEE 2020 targets for the Integrated Growth Pillar. This research will add value as a piece of scientific research in the area of trade and investments and will provide important recommendations for the further activities of policy makers.

**Keywords:** South East Europe 2020 Strategy, trade, investment, economic growth, competitiveness, integrated growth.

**Biography**

Krum Efremov, PhD is a Special Adviser to the Minister for Economic Diplomacy within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia. Since 2010 he is been an Assistant Professor at UACS. He was involved in the process of the accession of the Republic of Macedonia to the World Trade Organization. He was a Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Macedonia for the agreement on the amendment of and accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement – CEFTA 2006 and a President of the Council for Consumer Protection of the Republic of Macedonia (2004-2009). In 2003, he was a participant on the "23<sup>rd</sup> Trade Policy Course" in Geneva, organized by the WTO Training Institute.

Jasmina Majstoroska, PhD is an Advisor in the Industrial Policy Unit within the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Macedonia. Her work experience and specialization is related to investment, trade promotion, the EU accession process, and economic development and competitiveness enhancement programs. She has followed many seminars abroad and in the country. During her work engagement in the Agency for Privatization and the Ministry of Economy she was involved in and actively participated as a Macedonian counterpart in many projects realized with UNIDO, OECD, PHARE, USAID, GIZ, WB and others. She has prepared many articles as author or co-author, which have been published in different journals and publications. She was a guest lecturer at the American College and The Institute of Economics and Faculty of Economics in Skopje.

Ilijana Petrovska, PhD is an Associate professor lecturing several courses in the field of Marketing at University American College Skopje. In October 2013 she was promoted to the position of Vice Dean for Education and continues to lead the Marketing Department. Her research area is mainly in Integrated marketing communications, Marketing in Banking, Measuring Marketing, Social Media and Quality Education. Her previous professional experience as a Marketing Manager in the biggest bank in Macedonia supports all her research and academic activities. She is also a professional consultant providing executive education in Marketing. Since summer 2014 she has been a supervisor of the research project in measuring marketing at the Rome Business School.

