

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
The Challenges of the Enlargement
Policy: EU versus China's diplomacy
in Western Balkans 2020-23



NEWSLETTER NO. 1

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Faculty of Economics is implementing a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence project, which has been awarded for the first time to a Montenegrin university by the European Commission. The project, called "The Challenges of the Enlargement Policy – EU vs. China's Diplomacy in the Western Balkans 2020-23" will run for the next three years. It will position the University of Montenegro and this Faculty as institutions capable of excellence in teaching and research in the fields of international relations, EU integration and other related issues, at the European and the global level.

The English language will be introduced into teaching practice in Montenegro, by the interaction of local and EU-based professors in every proposed course within the project. The Centre activities will provide synergy, trans-institutional and transnational expertise in research, that aim to provide strategic responses elevating regional views, for policy makers to have a strategic response to current issues. The high level of expertise of both the local and the EU experts will contribute to making their voice heard in credible ways.

Based on the created synergy, the strategy for future integration will be developed.

OANA CRISTINA POPA – EU AMBASSADOR IN MONTENEGRO

"The EU itself has a strong relationship with China – a relationship that is at the same time one of the most strategically important and one of the most challenging it has.

China is, simultaneously, in different policy areas, a cooperation partner with whom the EU has closely aligned objectives; a negotiating partner with whom the EU needs to find a balance of interests; an economic competitor in the pursuit of technological leadership; and a systemic rival promoting alternative models of governance.



To manage our relationship with China in the years to come we need to maintain strong unity among EU Member States and future Member States such as Montenegro on all of those issues.

The future of Montenegro and the whole Western Balkans is in the EU, as confirmed by the recent poll that showed that 75% of Montenegrin citizens supported the EU accession of the country. Montenegro chooses the EU and the EU chooses Montenegro too!"

Oana Cristina Popa



OPENING EVENT

On Wednesday, February 24, an Opening Event for the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence was organized at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro.

The presentation was attended by the Ambassador of the European Union to Montenegro, Oana Cristina Popa. In her opening speech, Popa congratulated the Faculty and drew attention to how commendable it was to receive this title, awarded for the first time in Montenegro.



"Your project and this research will be very important both for the European institutions and for Montenegrin policy-makers at different levels," Popa stated. She pointed out that the future of Montenegro and the whole Western Balkans is in the EU. "

The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Nikola Milović, pointed out that the project would result in a more modern approach to the curriculum in the EU-related courses.

"Another Jean Monnet project at the Faculty of Economics – and its first Centre of Excellence – will contribute first and foremost to the quality of the teaching process, and then also to the development of Montenegro as a knowledge-based society, supporting one of its main foreign policy goals, which is full membership of the EU", said Prof. Nikola Milović.



Professor Danijela Jaćimović, who leads the project, pointed out "We will have the opportunity to host about 10 professors from the EU and China, who will be actively involved in the teaching process for undergraduate, Master's and Doctoral students.

This is important because our students are future experts who will work in the public and private sector, and the quality of their knowledge will contribute to the EU processes facing Montenegro," said Prof. Jaćimović.

TEACHING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO

The English language is introduced into teaching practice in Montenegro. At the University of Montenegro, during the summer semester 2020/21, lectures in English are being held in four courses at the Faculty of Economics:



1. International Economics

Study level: Undergraduate, Teacher responsible: Prof. Danijela Jaćimović. Instructor: Sunčica Rogić

2. Globalization and Economic Policy

Study level: Masters, Teacher responsible: Prof. Danijela Jaćimović, Instructor: Sunčica Rogić

3. The Economy of the European Union

Study level: Undergraduate, Teacher responsible: Prof. Nikola Milović

4. The Single Market and the EU Competition Policy

Study level: Masters, Teacher responsible: Prof. Nikola Milović

TEACHING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DONJA GORICA

At the partner university on the project – the University of Donja Gorica, lectures are held in English in two courses at the Faculty of Humanist Studies, during the summer semester 2020/21:



1. The EU Enlargement Policy

Study level: Undergraduate, Teacher responsible: Prof. Tanja Miščević / Dr Nikoleta Đukanović

2. The Political system of the EU and European Institutions

Study level: Undergraduate, Teacher responsible: Prof. Tanja Miščević / Dr Nikoleta Đukanović



ONLINE GUEST LECTURES

March 2021 - Online guest lectures

Professor Frank Schimmelfennig from the Centre for Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zurich, gave the online lectures *Theories of integration and Development of European integration* to the students of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro and the Faculty of Humanist Studies of the University of Donja Gorica.

His research focuses on European integration and more specifically, integration theory, EU enlargement and Europeanization, differentiated integration, democracy promotion and democratization.



April 2021 - Online guest lectures

Professor Michael Kaeding is Professor for European Integration and European Union Politics at the Department of Political Science of the University of Duisburg-Essen and holds an *ad personam* Jean Monnet Chair. He gave the online lectures *The Future of Europe and external differentiation: EU agencies, the Western Balkans and Turkey and Legislative decision-making: How the EU institutions interact*.

His research focuses on EU integration and governance, European institutions and bodies.



UPCOMING GUEST LECTURES

May 2021 - Online guest lectures

Professor Jing Men the Director of the EU-China Research Centre at the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies of the College of Europe will give lectures *The nature of the EU-China relations and the EU-China economic and trade relations* to undergraduate and Masters students at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, as well as the Faculty of Humanist Studies of the University of Donja Gorica.

Her research and teaching focuses on EU-China relations and Chinese foreign policy.



Professor Kong Tianping works for the Institute of European Studies, which affiliates to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He teaches in the School of International Relations in the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He is the member of the Academic Council of the 16+1 Think-tank Network, member of the International Academic Council of China-CEE Institute at Budapest. Prof. Tianping will give lectures: *Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe: Lessons and Reflection* and *Global Changes and Relations between China and the West Balkans*.

His research fields cover CEE studies, transition economies, comparative analysis of economies in transition and international politics.



UPCOMING EVENT: SEMINAR 1

The EU, China and the Western Balkans: The challenges and prospects of further integration

Speakers: Frank Schimmelfennig, Michael Kaeding, Jing Men, Kong Tianping, Tanja Miščević and Nikola Milović.

The seminar will be organized by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, moderated by Danijela Jaćimović.

Venue: EU info Centre, 27 May at 11 am

As the EU has been facing and prioritising its own domestic challenges over recent years, there has been a delay in the accession process in the Western Balkans. At the same time Russia, China and Turkey have filled the gap and strengthened their roles in the region.

There is growing literature on the presence of the global powers and their influence in the Balkan region. While there is growing literature and a certain level of experience related to the relationships with Russia and Turkey in the wider region, China is a newcomer in this game. This seminar will seek to explore the balance of power between China and the European Union in relation to the region.

The aim is to consider whether and to what extent the presence of China could have an effect on the Western Balkans' relationship with the European Union, and the potential impact on the accession prospects of nations in the region.

Please write an email to suncica@ucg.ac.me if you are interested in joining us for Seminar 1.

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