

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



NEWSLETTER NO. 3

APRIL 2022

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 three years. It will position the University of Montenegro and the Faculty of Economics as institutions capable of excellence in teaching and research in the fields of international relations, EU integration and other related issues, at both the European and the global level.

EVENTS

LECTURE

The New EU Institutional Reality – The Political and Institutional Landscape for Future Integration

at the University of Donja Gorica, November 2021

Our partner university, the University of Donja Gorica (UDG), and the Faculty of Humanities organized a lecture about new institutional reality, with the aim of delineating the landscape of the future political and institutional design for integration. The event highlighted various open issues concerning the future relationship between the EU and its members, as well as the directions the discussion is taking in relation to these topics. The focus of the event was on the countries of the Western Balkans and on the future of the European Union.

The participants of the lecture were: Tanja Mišćević (UDG), Sabina Lange (EIP), Danijela Jaćimović (UCG), Nikoleta Đukanović (UDG).

It was particular pleasure that Mrs Zorka Kordic, the Chief Negotiator for Montenegrin Accession to the EU participated in the event and shared her insightful thoughts with us!

All participants exchanged their views about the respective topics with the students of the University of Donja Gorica and the University of Montenegro (UCG)



More information about the event can be found on the [project website](#).

SEMINAR

How to Write a Successful Project Proposal by Andrea Sabatini (TEPSA)
at the Faculty of Economics (UCG), November 2021



On Monday, November 1st 2021, Andrea Sabatini, the Finance Manager at TEPSA, held a presentation on how to write a successful project proposal.

By sharing his useful and extensive experience, Mr Sabatini explained the key issues and points regarding the process of writing project proposals for various types of calls. He presented the process of both top-down and bottom-up

approaches to writing proposals, by highlighting all necessary steps in the process of project management.

The one-hour presentation was followed by a dynamic Q&A session, where both students and teaching assistants from the University of Montenegro and the University of Donja Gorica raised a range of interesting and relevant points.

More information about the seminar can be found on the [project website](#).

PUBLIC DEBATE

Enlargement Solidarity: Between Political and Economic Convergence and Solidarity at the
University of Montenegro, November 2021

A public debate, "Enlargement Solidarity: Between Political and Economic Convergence and Solidarity", for the third volume of the book: *European Solidarity in Action and the Future of Europe: Views from the Capitals* (2021), published by Springer was held at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro on Wednesday, November 3rd 2021.

The aim of the debate was to consider the relationship between political and economic convergence and solidarity. The discussion was moderated by Prof. Danijela Jaćimović (author of the chapter), while the distinguished panellists were: Prof. Nikola Milović, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and chapter author, Oana-Cristina Popa, PhD, EU Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Jakov Milatović, MSc, the Minister of Economic Development and Andrea Sabatini, MSc, the Finance Manager of the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA).

Montenegro should demonstrate its solidarity through the faster and more sustained implementation of European values in reforms, so as to fulfill the relevant political criteria. It was also agreed by the panellists that the EU should reassert its solidarity with its neighbors, including in overcoming the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The topic of the debate aroused great interest among all 50 of the students who attended, and who, during the two-hour duration of the event, used the presence of their professors, Ambassador Popa and Minister Milatović to ask numerous questions about the future of our country and its European path.

A full report on the event can be found on the [project website](#).

DART Online Seminar

"The EU, China, and the Western Balkans: The Challenges and Prospects of Further Integration" organized by Bentley University (Waltham, Massachusetts) - November 2021

Professor Danijela Jacimovic, the Jean Monnet Project Coordinator and a DART Research Affiliated Scholar, gave a lecture entitled "*The EU, China, and the Western Balkans: The Challenges and Prospects of Further Integration*".

The seminar was organized by Bentley University (Waltham, Massachusetts) on Thursday, November 18th and moderated by Professor Joel Deichmann.

Professor Jacimovic described the relationships between the EU, China and the Western Balkans, and aimed to answer three questions:

- What is the balance of power between China and the European Union in relation to the region?
- To what extent could the presence of China have an effect on the Western Balkans' relationship with the European Union, and a potential impact on the accession prospects of nations in the region?
- Is a "win-win-win" situation possible for the EU-China-Western Balkan relationship?

The full report on the seminar can be found on the [project website](#).

RESEARCH

CONFERENCE

Geopolitics and the Political Economy of Conflict in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean

Part of the research conducted during the realization of the project - The EU, China and the Western Balkans: The Challenges and Prospects of Further Integration, was presented at the regional conference "Geopolitics and the Political Economy of Conflict in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean". The conference was organized in Niš (Serbia) jointly by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Niš and the Niš Science-Technology Park, from 3rd to 5th September, 2021. The paper was presented by Prof. Danijela Jaćimović and the authors are Prof. Danijela Jaćimović, Prof. Kong Tianping, Prof. Jing Men, Prof. Nikola Milović and Prof. Tanja Mišćević.

After the successful participation and presentation by Prof. Danijela Jaćimović, the conference paper was selected for publishing in a special issue of the [Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies](#).



CONFERENCE

Contemporary Issues in the Social Sciences

The paper entitled "Does China Challenge the Integration Perspective of the Western Balkan Countries?" was presented at the 12th SCF International Conference on "Contemporary Issues in Social Sciences" which was held from October 7-10, 2021 in Antalya, Turkey.

The paper was presented by Prof. Danijela Jaćimović. The authors are: Prof. Danijela Jaćimović, Prof. Nikola Milović, Prof. Tanja Mišćević and Master student - Marta Radenović.

You can read the Abstract on the [project website](#).



POLICY BRIEF

The Contemporary EU Reform Process- Some of the Main Topics, November 2021

We are happy to announce our first Policy Brief in 2021!

POLICY RECOMMENDATION: The EU deepening further integration in order to go back to its starting position of strengthening unity and dividing responsibility for promoting European values, equally for Member States as well as for the candidate countries.

From the early beginnings of the three European Communities, integration among its Member States was conceived as a process, not as a stable construct, yet without a clear idea where this process was headed. Only with the vague notion of "...ever closer union among the peoples of Europe..." A few things become abundantly clear if we follow a historical survey of EU reform processes: first, that these reforms are all aimed either at correcting flaws in the Union's design or at finally completing its original, but unrealized promises. When debating contemporary reforms to the EU, there are two primary issues for Member States to solve: the method and the scope of those reforms.

In the end, it is easy to conclude that many EU policies are undergoing reform processes. But we should never forget such achievements as long-term peace among the European powers, the development of human rights and democratic values, and forming a Single Market and a Common Currency. If we look at all the crises, but also all the accomplishments that came after them, it seems a fool's errand to write off the European Union. The future of the European Union will certainly consist of a political compromise, because it was created and developed in exactly this way to begin with.

You can read the full Policy Brief [HERE](#).



TEPSA BRIEF

Challenges of Enlargement in the Western Balkans, January 2022

The TEPSA policy brief of 2022 "Challenges of Enlargement in the Western Balkans" was written by Danijela Jaćimović, Professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, Joel I. Deichmann, Professor of Economic Geography at Bentley University and Kong Tianping, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute of European Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



Trans European Policy Studies Association

TEPSA BRIEFS

JANUARY 2022

Challenges of Enlargement in the Western Balkans

Danijela Jaćimović*, Joel I. Deichmann**, Kong Tianping***

Political and economic reforms in the Western Balkans have stalled recently. The reasons include diminishing interest among political elites in the region, expansion fatigue in the EU and its Member States, the severe economic effects of recent crises, and the growing role of geopolitics. Actions are needed to reinvigorate democratisation and EU integration in the region. These include strategic cooperation with the EU and China, alongside improving the investment climates and policies. EU-guided reforms should be harmonized and made parallel across the Western Balkans.

You can read the full policy brief [HERE](#).

STEVAN ĐURIĆ'S BRIEF WON TEPSA'S EP4U STUDENT CONTEST

Improving Youth Employment Opportunities in the Western Balkans in the Post Pandemic World, February 2022

Stevan Đurić, a student in the 3rd year at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, who was a part of the Jean Monnet project activities in the academic year 2020/21 through the course International Economics, won TEPSA's EP4U Student Contest in the "Employment & Social Policies" policy area.

Stevan pointed out, that after more than two years of going through a tremendous crisis at all levels, it seems that in 2022, thanks to the global distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, the end of the health crisis appears to be on the way. However, the real battle has just begun. The focus of this brief will be on unemployment, particularly youth employment and the relevant supporting social policies in the Western Balkans, and it argues that improvement is mainly needed in three spheres: education, digitalization, and government support.



EP4U STUDENT CONTEST WINNING PAPER

Improving Youth Employment Opportunities in
the Western Balkans in the Post-Pandemic World

Stevan Đurić*

It was stated that Stevan's brief is very well-researched, and provides concrete recommendations with a specific focus on youth employment opportunities in the Western Balkans.

You can read Stevan's full paper [HERE](#).

EUCO DEBRIEF

How could the EU build on the Single Market to reduce its strategic dependencies on sensitive areas (e.g. critical raw materials, semi-conductors) by Danijela Jacimovic, March 2022

The European Council Experts Debrief is series of policy responses by TEPSA to the regularly published conclusions of the European Council. Each time the European Council meet for a summit, TEPSA gathers its leading academics to comment on the conclusions, analysing the alliances formed, maintained, and broken, investigating the policy implications of the consensus reached, and prescribing solutions to move Europe forward.

This month, TEPSA experts focused on a number of important topics discussed at the European Council: Security & Defence, Energy, Economic Issues, and Neighbourhood Policy. This month, in addition to a foreword by TEPSA Secretary-General Jim Cloos and some concluding remarks by the University of Cologne's Wolfgang Wessels TEPSA's expert contributors include Prof. Danijela Jaćimović, who examined the pandemic and the war in Ukraine and how they could be stepping stones for the region to finally address a new model of development that will seek to balance economic, social, political, geopolitical and green goals. The consequences and disruptions could result in a new positioning of the region's companies in the EU's new supply chains, that would be mutually beneficial for both the region and the EU. In the current context, the Western Balkan region might partly contribute by reducing the dependence of the EU in certain sensitive areas, notably food and energy supply.

You can read the full EUCO Debrief [HERE](#).



ONLINE GUEST LECTURES



Professor Sabina Lange – Senior Lecturer at the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA, Maastricht), and a Senior Fellow of Maastricht University and also an Associate Professor in International Relations at the University of Ljubljana.

Dr Lange gave the following lectures in November 2021: "*The new EU institutional reality – The political and institutional landscape for future integration*" and "*Decision-making in the EU – The new dynamics in relations between Member States and EU institutions*".



Professor Srdjan Redžepagić, Director of the Balkan Institute of Science and Innovation (BISI), Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France is a professor and researcher in Economics.

His online lecture, entitled "*Evolution of European integrations: past developments, recent trends and perspectives*", was held on March 10th, 2022.



Professor Mojmir Mrak is a Full Professor at the School of Economic and Business of the University of Ljubljana.

The online-lecture "*Euro-area governance: past developments, recent trends and perspectives*" was held on March 15th, 2022. A second lecture "*The EU budget under the COVID crisis*" was held on April 15, 2022.



Professor Frank Schimmelfennig is Professor of European Politics and a member of the Centre for Comparative and International Studies at ETH Zurich.

Professor Frank Schimmelfennig gave an online lecture, titled "*Theories of integration*" on March 18, 2022.



Professor Olena Korohodova works at the Department of International Economics at the Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, Ukraine.

Professor Korohodova gave a lecture entitled "*Globalization and innovation and technology transfer*" on March 26, 2022.



[Professor Jing Men](#) is the Director of the Centre for European Studies, East China Normal University.

Lecture titled "*The nature of EU-China relations and EU-China economic and trade relations*", was held on April 12, 2022



[Professor Michael Kaeding](#) is Professor of European Integration and European Union Politics at the Department of Political Science of the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

On April 28, Professor Kaeding gave a lecture entitled "*The Future of Europe and external differentiation: EU agencies, the Western Balkans and Turkey*".

UPCOMING GUEST LECTURES

May 2022 - Online guest lectures

[Professor Srdjan Redžepagić](#) will give the second online guest lecture on May 17th, 2022. The topic of the lecture is "The EU Economy under the COVID crisis"

His fields of interest are European integration and Balkan studies.



[Professor Kong Tianping](#) from the Institute of European Studies, which affiliates to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Tianping will give the lecture: "*Global Changes and Relations between China and the Western Balkans*" on May 20th, 2022.

His research fields cover CEE studies, Transition economies, Comparative analysis of Economies in Transition and International Politics.



UPCOMING EVENT: Round Table Debate June 3rd, 2022 at 11 am

GLOBAL COMPETITION CHALLENGES FACING THE SINGLE MARKET AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WESTERN BALKAN

Speakers: Mojmir Mrak, Srđan Redžepagić, Danijela Jaćimović, Nikoleta Đukanović, Stevan Đurić

Moderator: Nikola Milović

Venue: The Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro

The aim of the round table discussion is to start a debate and examine potential solutions and policies which can support the region in achieving these goals. At the same time, the event should also start a debate about how to turn the consequences and disruptions of Covid-19 into potential opportunities for the business sector in the Western Balkans. Would it result in a new positioning of the region's companies in the EU's new supply chains, that could be mutually beneficial for the region and the EU? On the other hand, the region's economic involvement and engagement could also reduce the EU's dependence on suppliers from Asia, and provide a stable supply chain that would reduce the damaging effects of any future crisis.

Please write to suncica@ucg.ac.me if you are interested in joining us for the event.

Full information about the event can be found on the [project website](#).

Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

