



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



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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.

## LECTURE 2: New Enlargement Policy: EU, China and Western Balkans

Under the auspice of Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro and University Donja Gorica organised the Lecture 2 „**New Enlargement Policy: EU, China and Western Balkans**“ on October 20, 2022, at the University of Donja Gorica. Speakers at the event were prof. dr. Jaap W. de Zwaan (Erasmus University Rotterdam), prof. dr. Tanja Mišćević (UDG) and dr. Nikoleta Đukanović (UDG). The event highlighted various open issues concerning the New EU Enlargement policy, political and technical novelties of accession methodology, challenges ahead for the European Union and the impact of global challenges on EU Enlargement Policy.



**Prof Dr Jaap W. de Zwaan** made an introduction regarding challenges ahead for the European Union, such as the accession of new Member States and the 'absorption capacity' of the Union's New EU. Professor Zwaan discussed with the students the key open questions of the European Union's absorptive capacity and the possibility to expand its membership while maintaining the capacity to deepen relations between the members and the EU.

**Prof. dr Tanja Mišćević** held a presentation on the new EU Accession Methodology, with special focus on political and technical novelties. However, she emphasised that the biggest novelty in the Negotiating Framework is introduction of most elements from the substance of negotiations with negotiating principles:



organising negotiations in chapters which are then additionally organised in clusters; as well as fundamentals first, and other.

**Dr Nikoleta Đukanović** contributed to the discussion on current challenges of Europeanisation process in the Western Balkans and the influence of the New EU Enlargement policy on democratisation and europeanisation processes in the WB region. Nikoleta added that it is essential that the European Union intensify its role in promoting the rule of law in the Western Balkans and take responsibility for the delays in the democratisation process that have been visible in all countries in the region in recent years.

At the end of the session, the students asked numerous interesting questions to the lecturers as soon as an interactive discussion opened about the process of integration of the Western Balkan countries into the EU, current problems and challenges in the integration process, regional cooperation and perspectives of the new regional initiatives.

## CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO STUDENTS TAKING PART IN CEP PROJECT

Certificate award ceremony for students participating in the Jean Monnet CEP project courses – International Economics, Globalisation and Economic Policy and Economy of the European Union, was organised at the Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro on Monday, November 7.

After two years of online lectures, the certificates were awarded in person by prof. Danijela Jaćimović, CEP project coordinator and Sunčica Rogić, CEP team member.



Students expressed positive feedback regarding the lectures organised in the summer semester, stating that they enjoyed the innovative way of teaching, as well as many guest lectures that were organised.

## ONLINE GUEST LECTURES

### October 2022 - Online guest lectures

**[Emeritus professor Jaap de Zwaan](#)** from Erasmus University Rotterdam gave two guest lectures titled "*The requirements for accession to the European Union*" and "*Challenges ahead for the European Union: Security, Enlargement and the Future Conference*" to students of University of Montenegro and University Donja Gorica.



### March 2023 - Online guest lectures



**Professor Lucia Mokra** from Comenius University in Bratislava gave two guest lectures titled "*The role of human rights in the enlargement policy*" and "*Small member states and the European Union*" to students of University of Montenegro and University Donja Gorica.

### April 2023 - Online guest lectures

**Professor Mojmir Mrak** from the University of Ljubljana gave two guest lectures titled "*EU budget under the COVID crisis*", and "*Euro-area governance: past developments, recent trends and perspectives*", to students of University of Montenegro and University Donja Gorica.



**Professor Kong Tianping** from the Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences gave an online lecture: "*Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe: Lessons and Reflection*", to students of University of Montenegro and University Donja Gorica.

## UPCOMING GUEST LECTURE

### May 2023 - Guest lectures

**Professor Kong Tianping** from the Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, will give an online lecture: "*Global Changes and Relations between China and the West Balkans*" on May 4, 2023.



## UPCOMING EVENT: Seminar 2 May 25, at 13 pm

### THE EU, CHINA AND THE WESTERN BALKANS: COOPERATION UNDER NEW CIRCUMSTANCES

As the global political and economic landscape changes and unforeseen events take place, Western Balkan countries must adapt. The GFC, the Syrian Refugee Crisis, COVID-19 and the current situation in Ukraine have all had a significant impact on the world environment and changed government priorities over recent years.

The trajectory of the Western Balkan states toward EU accession has been delayed and altered by unforeseen circumstances, but the overall goal has not changed. At the same time, the region has evolved into an arena for intense geopolitical rivalry, with the nations of the region being impacted to various degrees by foreign actors, such as China, Russia, Turkey, and the Gulf States. Future developments towards EU accession are made more challenging by changes in the political and economic climate, most notably because of the situation in Ukraine.

**Speakers:** Lucia Mokra, Kong Tianping, Mojmir Mrak, Tanja Mišćević, Nikola Milović, Nikoleta Tomović, Government officials, Representatives of Political Parties and NGOs and Diplomats

**Moderator:** Danijela Jaćimović

The event will be organised by the Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro.

Please write to [suncica@ucg.ac.me](mailto:suncica@ucg.ac.me) if you are interested in joining us for the event.

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