



Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland



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OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH



Poznań 2019
Western Balkans Summit

The Western Balkans and the Berlin Process

-
Current achievements,
future goals



THINK
TANK
FORUM
WESTERN
BALKANS

-
Poznań 2019

Biographical profiles

(in alphabetical order)



Piotr Arak

Polish Economic Institute

Piotr Arak is the Director of the Polish Economic Institute. He is a social and economic analyst. He has previously worked at Deloitte, the Polityka Insight think-tank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Ministry of Administration and Digitisation, and the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. He graduated in social policy from the University of Warsaw, followed by further studies on using statistical methods in business. He is studying for an MBA at the Warsaw School of Economics and the University of Montreal and writing a PhD on public policy at the University of Warsaw. He has written numerous studies on digitisation, the economics of health, and economic policy.



Maja Bobić

European Movement in Serbia / CSF WB (European Fund for the Balkans)

Maja Bobić is an anthropologist with an MA in Southeast European Studies conferred at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. She is Vice-President of the European Movement in Serbia, member of the International European Movement Executive Board and member of the Main Board of the "Nezavisnost" trade union. She is also a consultant providing analytical, policy and management services in the areas of EU integration, West Balkans Enlargement, Civil Society, Social Policy and Innovation.

Since 2003 she has been employed in EMinS and from 2007–2018 was Secretary General in charge of the overall planning, fundraising and management of EMinS, as well as representation to partners, associates, media and beneficiaries. She possesses more than 15 years of complex project management experience and research experience that covers Serbia and the Western Balkan region, EU integration and democratisation. Maja was regional co-chair of the German Marshall Fund's MMF program, and inter alia FES and Freedom House



Fellow, Alumna of the US international leadership programme, UK FCO Leadership program and the German MFA's visiting programme.

Ms Bobić is one of the authors of the Policy Paper *Western Balkans Local Communities in the Process of EU Integration* which was prepared for the Poznań Summit of the Berlin Process in the framework of the Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans.



Nenad Đurđević

Advisor to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

Nenad Đurđević is an advisor to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia for international affairs, overseeing and devising the chamber's activities in the Western Balkans, with special attention on the Berlin Process and fostering better regional economic relations. During his engagement in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia he worked also as a Director of the Foreign Economic Relations Directorate.

He was a coordinator of the Forum for Ethnic Relations, an NGO involved in the support of building democratic institutions, contributing to solutions of ethnic conflicts. Among his roles, he has served as Director of the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights under the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government, as Director of the Coordination Body for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa in the Government of Serbia. Mr Đurđević graduated from the Law Faculty in Belgrade and attended postgraduate studies in the Central European University, Budapest. He published a number of papers on ethnic minority related issues and has extensive experience in providing expertise and advice for a number of national and international institutions.



Donika Emini

Kosovar Center for Security Studies

Donika Emini is working as a researcher at the Kosovar Center for Security Studies as part of the Think Tank Young Professional Development Program. She is a fellow of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS Foundation). Her fields of expertise include: international peace and security; local government reform, human rights and diversity management in Kosovo; public procurement and consumer protection; and anti-corruption reform in Kosovo. She previously worked as a Researcher/Project Manager at the Balkan Policy Institute in Pristina.

She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt. Emini also graduated from the University of Pristina with a degree in Political Science.

Ms Emini is one of the authors of the study devoted to Security Cooperation in the Berlin Process in the framework of the project *Regional cooperation in the Western Balkans: The Berlin Process and Visegrad Group in comparison* supported by the International Visegrad Fund.



Gersi Gashi

Democracy for Development

Gersi Gashi is a research fellow at D4D, and his work involves conducting research, analysing current policies, evaluating the effects of proposed legislation. He has a bachelor's degree in public policy and economics from the American University in Kosovo. He has been engaged in the civil society sector as a project manager and researcher for different organisations, such as the Peer Educators Network, and Levizja FOL. The fields where his work was mostly concentrated are: anticorruption with a focus on the judiciary, welfare policies, higher education, and labour mobility. He has published different publications and articles on these subjects.



Mr Gashi is one of the authors of the Policy Paper *Economic Issues in the Western Balkans* which was prepared for the Poznań Summit of the Berlin Process in the framework of the Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans.



Mateusz Gniazdowski

Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw

Mateusz Gniazdowski, PhD is Deputy Director of the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW). He graduated from the Institute of Political Science of the University of Warsaw, and has a PhD from the Institute of Political Science of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. From 2004 to 2010 he worked at the Polish Institute of International Affairs, where he specialised in Central European issues. He is chairman of the Policy Board of the Czech-Polish Forum, a member of the Polish-Slovak Commission for the Humanities, a member of the Editorial Committee of the Polish Diplomatic Review and co-ordinator of the Polish section of the Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform. He specialises in analyses of internal and foreign policy in the Central European countries, as well as issues of regional cooperation.



Ardian Hackaj

ShtetiWeb.org and Cooperation and Development Institute

Ardian Hackaj is the Director of ShtetiWeb.org – a public policy platform for the Cooperation and Development Institute. He is the coordinator of the Tirana Conference of the Berlin Process, and has authored many research works on connectivity, youth and migration. Mr Hackaj has held management positions at the College of Europe-Bruges, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations, and with the European Commission. He holds an MA from the College of Europe, a Maîtrise in International Economics from the Université Lumière, Lyon 2, and a Diplôme Universitaire from the Institut d'Études Politiques, Lyon.



James Ker-Lindsay

London School of Economics and Political Science

James Ker-Lindsay is Visiting Professor at LSEE-Research on South East Europe at the European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science. He has written extensively on the Western Balkans, with a focus on conflict, peace and security and on EU enlargement in the region. His books include, *Civil Society and Transitions in the Western Balkans* (Palgrave Macmillan) and *New Perspectives on Yugoslavia: Key Issues and Controversies* (Routledge). In addition to his academic work, he has served as a consultant and advisor to a number of governments and international organisations and is also a regular media commentator on regional developments.



Srđan Majstorović

European Policy Centre

Srđan Majstorović is the Chairman of the Governing Board of the European Policy Centre – CEP, a Belgrade-based think tank. He is a member of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG), an international public advocacy group dedicated to promotion of the EU integration process of the Western Balkans region. Since December 2018, Mr Majstorović has been a member of the Governing Board of the Open Society Foundation in Serbia. Until 2017 he performed the role of Deputy Director of the European Integration Office of the Government of Serbia (SEIO). He was a member of the Negotiating Team for Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union in charge of the political criteria for EU accession and chapters 23 (the judiciary and fundamental rights) and 24 (justice, freedom and security).

He graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Belgrade, Department of International Relations, and attained his MA degree at the University of Graz, Karl-Franzens Faculty of Law, Department of European Integration and Regionalism.



Jovana Marović

Politikon Network / CSF WB (European Fund for the Balkans)
/ BiEPAG member

Jovana Marović, PhD is Executive Director of the Politikon Network, a think tank based in Podgorica, Montenegro. She studied at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade. Between 2004–2016 she worked as a Counsellor for the European Union in the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs' multilateral department, Advisor for International Relations and European Integration within the Cabinet of the Budva Municipality's Mayor, Research Coordinator at the think tank Institute Alternative, and Special Advisor to the Montenegrin Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. She is also a Member of the Working Group for Chapter 23, Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, within the Montenegrin Accession Negotiations for EU membership. She is a member of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG).

Ms Marović is an author of the Policy Paper Legacy Issues and the Rule of Law in the Western Balkans: Slow Progress and Countless Obstacles which was prepared for the Poznań Summit of the Berlin Process in the framework of the Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans.



Vladimir Međak

European Movement in Serbia

Vladimir Međak PhD, is the vice-president of the European Movement in Serbia and the director of its think-tank centre. He has 14 years of experience of working in the Government of Serbia on the EU integration of that country. He was a chief legal expert of the Negotiation Team of Serbia for Accession Negotiations to the EU from 2015–2017. He was assistant director in the former Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) of the Government of Serbia, responsible for the harmonisation of legislation, negotiations and implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) and accession negotiations.

He received his doctorate at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade in 2013 and his M.A. at the Faculty of Political Sciences and Diplomacy at the University of Bologna, Italy in 2002, and graduated from the Faculty of Law in Belgrade in 2000.



Jelica Minić

Forum for International Relations of the European Movement in Serbia

Jelica Minić, PhD is president of the Forum for International Relations of the European Movement in Serbia. She has a research and policy-making background in European integration affairs and regional cooperation. She was the Deputy Secretary General and Head of the Expert Pool of the Regional Cooperation Council, in Sarajevo (2008–2013) and had high managerial positions in the state administration (Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, 2000–2004), NGO (Secretary General of the European Movement in Serbia, 1994–2000) and academia (1971–2000 and 2006–2008) as consultant or team leader for projects of the UNDP, the German Marshall Fund in Serbia, and the European Integration Fund of the European Agency for Reconstruction. She lectures on regional cooperation in South East Europe and EU Enlargement Policy at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia. She has published over 170 articles, essays and book chapters, around 60 conference papers and edited several books and reviews.

Ms Minić wrote a study devoted to the Connectivity Agenda of the Berlin Process in the framework of the *Regional cooperation in the Western Balkans: The Berlin Process and Visegrad Group in comparison* project supported by International Visegrad Fund.



Silvana Mojsovska

Institute of Economics, SS. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

Silvana Mojsovska, PhD is a full-time professor at the Institute of Economics – Skopje, University SS. Cyril and Methodius. Her main professional interests are International Economics and EU integration. She is a coordinator of the CEFTA Academic Network (Trade Facilitation and Investment pillar), operating under the auspices of London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and CEFTA Secretariat.

She was part of the Macedonian team of the Sector for EU affairs within the Government, who worked at submission of the country's application to EU, resulting in candidate status of the Republic of North Macedonia. She has worked on many research projects and published academic and policy papers with focus on Western Balkans and their EU perspectives.



Zoran Nechev

Institute for Democracy *Societas Civilis*

Zoran Nechev heads the Center for European integration of the Institute for Democracy *Societas Civilis*, a think tank organisation from North Macedonia devoted to research and capacity-building in matters related to the EU in general, and the enlargement process more specifically. He is also a member of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG). Since 2014, he has been an academic guest at the Center for International and Comparative Studies, ETH Zürich examining the effects of the EU's conditionality policy on the rule of law in the Western Balkans. As a former Senior Associate Fellow at the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), he was involved in activities related to the 'Global Strategy', resilience, and Balkan Futures studies.

He specialises in EU-Western Balkan relations and the external dimensions of justice and domestic affairs and is a PhD candidate at the Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel.



Nermin Oruč

Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research

Nermin Oruč holds a PhD in Economics from Staffordshire University. He is currently employed as Director of the Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Sarajevo. He is also the coordinator of the Western Balkans Migration Network and leader of the national team for BiHMOD, a micro-simulation model for tax and benefits policies in BiH, based on EUROMOD. He previously worked at local universities for eight years, where he taught Econometrics, Research Methods, Labour Economic and Economic Development. He has more than ten years of research experience and was also employed as a consultant on a number of projects with the World Bank, USAID, IOM, UNDP, and other organisations.

His research interests include social policy, migration, labour market analysis, poverty and inequality. He was awarded a teaching fellowship by the CERGE-EI Prague for the period 2012–2015 and an InGRID visiting fellowship to ISER, University of Essex. He is currently a Visiting Atlantic Fellow at the International Inequalities Institute, London School of Economics.



Maciej Popowski

Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Maciej Popowski is the Deputy Director-General in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission. He is a Polish diplomat with 25 years of professional experience. He was director for EU affairs at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time of Poland's accession negotiations. In 2001–2008 he was Deputy Head of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union. In 2003–2008 he was Poland's first permanent representative in the EU's Political and Security Committee. He then joined the European Commission as Director in DG Development focusing on policy coherence, aid effectiveness and relations with other donors and public information. In 2009 he was seconded from the European Commission to become head of the cabinet of Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament. From 2011 until 2015 he was Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service.



Marta Szpala

Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw

Marta Szpala coordinates main activities of the OSW related to the organisation of the Think Tank Forum. She is a Senior Fellow at the Department for Central Europe and the Balkans in the Centre for Eastern Studies. She specialises in the EU and NATO Integration of the Western Balkans, the social and political transformation of the Balkan States, civil society development in post-communist and post-conflict societies. She has collaborated with various Polish state institutions, the Schuman Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and think tanks from the Western Balkans. She is a guest lecturer at the University of Warsaw, the Diplomatic Academy and the College of Europe in Natolin. She cooperates with various Polish newspapers and media (e.g. Polish Radio, Wirtualny Nowy Przemysł, Biznes Alert). She provides expertise for various Polish and international administration bodies.



Szymon Szykowski vel Sęk

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Szymon Szykowski vel Sęk is Secretary of State for the Polish Community Abroad, European Policy and Public Diplomacy in the Polish MFA and the Polish Government's Plenipotentiary for the organisation of the Western Balkans Summit in Poznań. He graduated from the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, where he majored in international relations. In 2003–2004, he was a Socrates Erasmus scholarship recipient at Osnabrück University. From 2004 to 2015, he collaborated with Members of the European Parliament. A Sejm deputy since 2015, he sat on the Sejm's European Union and Foreign Affairs Committees, and chaired the Polish-German Parliamentary Group. The founder and president (2012–2016) of Project Poznań, a local think-tank. In 2006–2015, he served as city councillor in Poznań. In 2015–2016, he was Poznań's delegate to the Board of the Association of Polish Cities. He is the author of many press articles on European law and local government policy.



Enkeleida Tahiraj

London School of Economics and Political Science

Enkeleida Tahiraj, PhD is a Senior Visiting Fellow at LSEE. She has advised international organisations including the European Commission, EUROFOUND, the UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and the World Bank, as well as national governments on social protection, social inclusion strategy design, rights-based policies and EU Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC). She has reviewed country guidance for IAGCI. Special Adviser to IDS on Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy.

She is a World Visiting Scholar at University of California San Diego, and at Penn State University, USA, as well as Chevening Scholar at Sussex University. Her fields of research are Poverty and Development, Children, Gender & Family Policies, EU Accession and Policy Transfer, Inclusion and Democratic Consolidation, Human Rights, Asylum and Migration, Social Security, Labour Markets and Employers and civil society organizations. Her current focus is on the governance mechanisms for rights based policies and inclusion and the role of international organisations in social discourse. At LSE she is researching and teaching on Universal Basic Income and other policy innovations, while also being engaged in country implementations. Dr Tahiraj has lectured on social policy, sociology and politics at the University of Tirana, the University of York and UCL, and was Visiting Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta.



Gjergji Vurmo

Institute for Democracy and Mediation

Gjergji Vurmo is the IDM's Programme Director and a senior researcher on good governance, civil society, security and the Western Balkans' EU accession. His work focuses on governance, the European Union, and a number of security-related issues, including radicalism and violent extremism. He is the author of several studies and reports related to the development of civil society, and to governance and anti-corruption, the EU accession process, and violent extremism.

He has served as Steering Board member of various networks of research institutes in the SEE region (PASOS, BCSDN) and is a contributor on the WB region for various EU think tanks. He has monitored and reported on Albania for the Open Government partnership and USAID CSO's Sustainability Index. Before working with the IDM he has been involved with think tanks in the WB region for over seven years. He studied law at SS. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and obtained his MA degree on European Studies at the University of Bologna, Italy.



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Kelmend Zajazi

Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe

Kelmend Zajazi has been the Executive Director of NALAS, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe since 2007. He is a member of the Council of Europe's Independent Expert Group on the European Charter of Local Self Governments. Previously, he managed USAID Local Government Reforms and Democracy Network Programs, served as an Advisor of the Minister of Health and worked with the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office in Macedonia. Zajazi is a Medical Doctor and holds a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management from the University of Pittsburgh.



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Important information: The working language of the conference is English.

Please note: The OSW plans to produce image recordings during the event, which the OSW will use and publish in a documentary about the event, for its own reporting, as well as on the Internet. In doing so, it might be possible that pictures of your person might be taken and be used for later publication. If you do not agree to this, please send us an e-mail.