



**Virtual Conference (15-16 October 2020)**

***“The future of EU enlargement and partnership policies: EU actorness in South-Eastern Europe and the Eastern Neighbourhood”***

**Live streamed via YouTube**



Under the Auspices



## Virtual Conference

*“The future of EU enlargement and partnership policies: EU actorness in South-Eastern Europe and the Eastern Neighbourhood”*

15-16 October 2020

Final Programme<sup>1</sup>

### Day 1: 15 October 2020

**Opening/Keynote – 10:30-11:30** *Eastern European Time (GMT+3)*

*Live Streamed via YouTube channel: [https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J\\_8c4Kuw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J_8c4Kuw)*

#### Opening remarks

- **Nikolaos Tzifakis**, Associate Professor, Chair, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese / Research Associate, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- **Milenko Petrovic**, National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury
- **Florian Bieber**, Professor, Jean Monnet Chair in the Europeanisation of Southeastern Europe, University of Graz

#### Keynote Address

**Professor Geoffrey Pridham** (Emeritus Professor, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, University of Bristol)  
**“EU Enlargement and Partnership Policies: Past, Present and Future”**

Chair: Milenko Petrovic (National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury)

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<sup>1</sup> Eastern European Time (EET) is used throughout the program.

**Session A1 – 11:40-13:00** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

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### **EU conditionality issues in the Western Balkans**

Chair: Aristotle Tziampiris (Professor, Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus)

- Ivica Bakota (Assistant Professor, Capital Normal University)

***Overcoming the Moses trap. Strategies to defy the EU conditionality***

- Nikolaos Tzifakis (Associate Professor, Chair, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese)

***EU accession conditionality hijacked in the Western Balkans***

- Marie Jelenka Kirchner (Associate Researcher, Centre for European Integration, Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis”)

Zoran Nechev (PhD Student, Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Head of the Centre for European Integration, Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis”)

***The show behind the scenes: The impact of underlying domestic costs on EU conditionality compliance patterns in the Western Balkans***

- Lina Strupinskienė (Assistant Professor, Deputy Director for Studies, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University)

Simona Vaškevičiūtė (MA Student, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University)

***Assessing reconciliation in Croatia: Moving forward or backward?***

**Session B1 – 11:40-13:20** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

Live Streamed via YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCG0MdbzciNZIP1HKa-jkeHg>

**Regional cooperation frameworks in South-East and Central-East Europe: Complementary initiatives or alternatives to EU integration?**

Chair: Beata Surmacz (Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Department of International Relations, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Director, Institute of Central Europe)

- Tomasz Stępniewski (Associate Professor, Institute of Political Science and Administration, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Deputy Director, Institute of Central Europe in Lublin)

*The European Union, Russia and rivalry in the common neighbourhood*

- Łukasz Lewkowicz (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Senior Analyst, Department of the Visegrad Group, Institute of Central Europe in Lublin)

*The Three Seas Initiative as an economic challenge for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe*

- Damian Szacawa (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Department of International Relations, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Senior Analyst, Institute of Central Europe)

*The Council of the Baltic Sea States: An important supplement for EU integration*

- Konrad Pawłowski (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Department of International Relations, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Institute of Political and Administrative Studies, Head of the Balkan Department, Institute of Central Europe)

*The Berlin Process: A complementary initiative or “cheap replacement” for the EU Enlargement?*

- Agata Domachowska (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Senior Analyst, Institute of Central Europe)

*“Too good to be true?” The Mini Schengen and a chance for a real cooperation between the Western Balkan countries*

**Session A2 – 14:20-16:00** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

Live Streamed via YouTube channel: [https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J\\_8c4Kuw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J_8c4Kuw)

**The prospects of EU enlargement towards the Western Balkans**

Chair: Gordana Djurovic (Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro)

- Miloš Petrović (Research Fellow, Institute for International Politics and Economics)

*Reexamining the “European perspective” in the enlargement and neighborhood policies*

- Efstathios T. Fakiolas (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese)

*De-politicization or re-politicization of EU enlargement policy: Some reflections*

- Oleksandr Hleba (Senior Academic Assistant, College of Europe Natolin Campus, Warsaw, PhD Student, Uzhhorod National University)  
*The revised methodology of the EU's enlargement policy: Old wine in new bottles?*
- Ioannis Ant. Ragies (Professor, Department of Military Sciences, Hellenic Army Academy)  
*Theorizing EU enlargement: The core and the non-core in CSDP*
- Fitore Pacolli Dalipi (PhD Student, University of Graz)  
Jeton Zulfaj (MSc in European Affairs, Lund University)  
*Lack of trust? The key obstacle of enlargement*

**Session B2 – 14:20-16:00** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

Live Streamed via YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCG0MdbzciNZIP1HKa-jkeHg>

### **Governance and Resilience in Eastern Neighbourhood Countries: Challenges and Policies**

Chair: Panagiotis Kakolyris (Senior Research Fellow, Centre of International and European Political Economy and Governance, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese, Steering Committee Member, European Network of Political Foundations)

- Giorgio Oikonomou (Adjunct Lecturer, University of the Peloponnese)  
Spyros Blavoukos (Associate Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business)  
*Promoting good governance in the European Union's neighbourhood: The role of sub-state authorities in the implementation of the Eastern Partnership*
- Kornely Kakachia (Professor, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Department of Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University)  
Bidzina Lebanidze (Research Associate, Friedrich Schiller University Jena)  
*Resilience, security and democracy: EU's new global strategy and the Eastern Partnership countries*
- Othon-Alexandros Kaminiaris-Kontostavlos (PhD Student, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Junior Researcher, Institute of European Integration and Policy, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)  
*The Europeanisation of the Eastern Partnership countries as a criterion for potential EU membership: The case of climate change*
- Haralampos Boumpagiatzoglou (Adjunct Lecturer, Panteion University of Athens)  
*The reversible path of Moldova to Europe*
- Nadiia Bureiko (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism")  
Teodor Lucian Moga (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania)  
*Testing the efficiency of EU's neighbourhood instruments in Ukraine*

**Session A3 – 16:20-18:00** *Eastern European Time (GMT+3)*

*Live Streamed via YouTube channel: [https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J\\_8c4Kuw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J_8c4Kuw)*

### **EU integration strategies in the Western Balkans**

Chair: Nikolaos Tzifakis (Associate Professor, Chair, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese)

- Enika Abazi (Associate Professor, Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, University of Lille)  
*Western Balkans and EU's enlargement agenda: between power games and marginalization*
- Jovan Teokarevic (Professor, University of Belgrade, Visiting Professor, College of Europe, Warsaw)  
*Differentiated integration and Western Balkans accession*
- Marko Milenkovic (Research Fellow, Institute of Social Sciences Belgrade, Centre for Legal Research, Affiliate researcher, Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development, School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna Center Johns Hopkins University)  
*Current and future differentiated EU integration trajectories for the Western Balkans*
- Iva Plaushku (Backlog Reduction Officer, High Court of Albania, East Management Institute)  
*The vetting process as a precondition toward EU integration*
- Maria Fysekidou (Research Fellow, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese)  
*Territorial governance and capacity building in the Western Balkans as a means to integration*

## **Day 2: 16 October 2020**

**Session A4 – 10:00-11:20** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

**Live Streamed via YouTube channel:** [https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J\\_8c4Kuw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J_8c4Kuw)

### **The EU and the Western Balkans in the 2020s: More integration or divergent paths?**

Chair: Milenko Petrovic (National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury)

- Milenko Petrovic (National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury)  
*Two decades of the Western Balkan EU accession process: Mired between domestic political instabilities and the EU's tightened conditions*
- Maja Kovačević (Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade)  
*The European Union's new enlargement methodology: Reform or reluctance?*
- Xiwen Wang (National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury)  
*Is China's increasing presence in the Western Balkans a threat to the region's accession to the EU?*
- Garth J. Wilson (National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury)  
*Why disputes over language and alphabets can threaten the EU accession of Western Balkan states?*

**Session B4 – 10:20-11:20** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

**Live Streamed via YouTube channel:** <https://youtube.com/channel/UCG0MdbzciNZIP1HKa-jkeHg>

### **The Eastern Partnership region in a European and global context**

Chair: Cigdem Ustun (Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Nisantasi University, Istanbul)

- Panagiota Manoli (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese)  
*European Neighbourhood Policy: Driving structural change beyond EU's external borders?*
- Richard Pomfret (Professor, Jean Monnet Chair, The University of Adelaide)  
*The EU looking East: Where does the Eastern Neighbourhood end, and how do EU-China economic relations affect the answer?*
- Eleni Chytou (PhD, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese)  
*The Eastern Partnership countries: Can they ever become EU members? Has the EU enlargement to the East reached its limits?*

**Session A5 – 11:30-13:10** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

Live Streamed via YouTube channel: [https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J\\_8c4Kuw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCdZBkLxyaeR5hz-J_8c4Kuw)

### **The prospect of EU membership as an incentive for change for Western Balkan states?**

Chair: Ritsa Panagiotou (Senior Research Fellow, Centre of Planning and Economic Research [KEPE])

- Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos (Professor of Political Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)  
*Stabilitocracy and illiberalism in the Western Balkans: The role of the EU and domestic actors*
- Yorgos Christidis (Associate Professor, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia)  
*EU accession process in the Western Balkans and the position of the Roma: EU policy and responses by the Western Balkan countries*
- Gordana Djurovic (Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro)  
Petar Raicevic (MSc Student, University of Piraeus)  
*The EC revised accession talks methodology and lessons learned from Montenegro and Serbia*
- Aikaterini Arvanitaki (PhD Student, University of Piraeus)  
*The European Commission's programs in the Western Balkans*
- Jeton Mehmeti (PhD Student, University of Graz)  
*Public media as an instrument for "state capture"*

**Session B5 – 11:30-12:30** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

Live Streamed via YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCG0MdbzciNZIP1HKa-jkeHg>

### **EU-Turkey relations revisited**

Chair: Antonis Klapsis (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese)

- Konstantinos Tsimaras (Associate Professor, Dean, Law School, European University Cyprus, Visiting Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toulouse)  
*The way of Turkey to EU: An impossible partnership or an indispensable partner?*
- George Koukoudakis (Assistant Professor, Hellenic Army Academy)  
*Turkey's lost road to Europe*
- Petros Violakis (Lecturer, Wrexham Glyndwr University Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes in Greece)  
*The EU-Turkey relations: Lessons learned?*



**Session A6 – 14:00-15:40** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

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### **The challenges of Europeanization in the Western Balkans**

Chair: Florian Bieber (Professor, Jean Monnet Chair in the Europeanisation of Southeastern Europe, University of Graz)

- Adam Fagan (Professor, Department of Political Economy, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy, King's College London)

***Reforming judicial training in Serbia under EU guidance: too much independence and insularity but not enough impartiality?***

- Petar Kurecic (Associate Professor, Jean Monnet Module Coordinator 2018-2021, Department of Economics, Department of, Communication Science, Media and Journalism, University North)

***The EU and the Western Balkans accession: Opportunities and limits to the success of the Croatian presidency of the EU***

- Nikoleta Đukanović (Lecturer, Researcher, University of Donja Gorica, Podgorica)

***Europeanization of Montenegro during the crisis of the EU's enlargement policy***

- Athena Skoulariki (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Crete)

***EU integration, enlargement "fatigue" and the "Europeanisation" discourse: The case of North Macedonia***

- Valentina Petrović (PhD Researcher, European University Institute, Florence)

***Europeanization in Serbia and North Macedonia: The role of unfavourable structures***

**Session B6 – 14:00-15:00** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

Live Streamed via YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCG0MdbzciNZIP1HKa-jkeHg>

### **Discussing Turkey's European Agenda and Policy**

Chair: Dimitris Tsarouchas (Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations at Bilkent University, Turkey; Adjunct Professor, George Washington, University, USA)

- Karol Kujawa (Assistant Professor, University of Business, Research Associate, University of Illinois)

***The role of the refugee issue in EU-Turkey relations***

- Athanassios Samaras (Assistant Professor, Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus)

Dimitra Michail (Researcher, University of Piraeus)

***Ethnic deconstruction of the significant other: Ad hominem arguments in Tayyip Erdogan's political speech attacking Europe's reliability***

- Dimitrios Triantaphyllou (Associate Professor, Kadir Has University)  
Nasuh Sofuoğlu (PhD Student, Kadir Has University)  
*An ontological security approach to Greek-Turkish relations and Turkey's EU bid*

**Session A7 – 16:00-17:20** Eastern European Time (GMT+3)

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### **Geopolitical considerations in the Western Balkans**

Chair: Adam Fagan (Professor, Department of Political Economy, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy, King's College London)

- Jens Bastian (Senior Policy Advisor, ELIAMEP)  
*Southeast Europe in current Chinese foreign policy*
- Florian Bieber (Professor, Jean Monnet Chair in the Europeanisation of Southeastern Europe, University of Graz)  
*Competition ideas of Europe in the light of the "Western Balkan Route"*
- Péter Reményi (Associate Professor, Department of Political Geography and Regional Development, Institute of Geography, University of Pécs)  
Tibor Pap (PhD Student, Earth Sciences Doctoral School, University of Pécs)  
*Cooperation of internal and external peripheries in the Western Balkans: The critical geopolitical context of the relations of Serbia and Hungary*
- Yannis Foukas (PhD Student, University of the Aegean)  
*Security and Defense: A new field of differentiation in EU's integration that might work for the benefit of the Western Balkan States*