

## Western Balkans between Internal Transitions and the European Integration Process

### *List of Speakers*



**Péter BALÁZS** is a director of the Center for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS) which he established in 2005. Research activities of Prof. Balázs are centered on the foreign policy of the EU and problems of the late modernization and European integration of the Eastern part of the continent. He also analyzes the questions of European governance including the future of European institutions. Péter Balázs graduated in Budapest at the Faculty of Economics of the “Karl Marx” University (later: Budapest School of Economics, today Corvinus University). He got his PhD degree and habilitated at the same University. He is a ScD of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In parallel with his government and diplomatic career, he has been teaching and doing research. He was

nominated Professor of the Corvinus University in 2000 and joined the Central European University as a full time Professor in 2005. He is regularly teaching at various Hungarian and foreign universities, lecturing in English, French, German and Hungarian. After the systemic change in 1990, Prof. Balázs joined the Government of Hungary several times. He was State Secretary for Industry and Trade (1992-1993) and State Secretary for European Integration (2002-2003). He was Ambassador of Hungary in Denmark (1994-1996), Germany (1997-2000) and to the EU in Brussels (2003-2004). He was also the Government Representative of Hungary in the European Convention drafting the Constitutional Treaty, which became later, after several modifications, the Lisbon Treaty. In 2004, he was nominated the first Hungarian Member of the European Commission responsible for regional policy. In 2009-2010, he was Foreign Minister of Hungary.

**Christina GRIESSLER** is a research fellow for the Network for Political Communication (netPOL) at the Andrassy University Budapest, Hungary. She studied political sciences and cultural anthropology at the University of Vienna. Christina graduated from the University of Vienna with a Master’s degree and a doctorate in political science. She also obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies from the Trinity College Dublin (2009) and a diploma in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Dublin Business School (2011). Christina’s research focuses on the countries of the so-called Western Balkan region, the EU enlargement process and on the dynamics of identity based and ethnic conflict. Her primary interest lies in the field of peace and conflict studies and the communication in managing conflicts. She is currently working on her habilitation project, which looks at the conflict episodes in the relationship between Croatia and Serbia after the disintegration of Yugoslavia.





**Venera HAJRULLAHU** is the executive director of the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation. She graduated in French Language and Literature; she also studied European Affairs at the European Institute of the University of Geneva and completed Executive Education on Strategic Management for Leaders of NGOs at the Harvard Kennedy School. Prior to her current position, she was director of the European Integration Processes Office in the Office of the Prime Minister and advisor to the Prime Minister of Kosovo on European Affairs, as well as Special Advisor to the President of Kosovo on European Affairs. She was the chair of the Experts Group for the Strategy of Public Administration Reform, Kosovo representative in the Steering Committee of the Regional School of Public Administration, and

Member of the Council of the Independent Media Commission of Kosovo. Founding member of the CIVIKOS Platform that gathers over 100 CSOs in Kosovo, she actively advocated on behalf of the platform and contributed to drafting and adoption of Kosovo Government's Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society. Strengthened citizen participation in decision-making and a better environment for citizen engagement in Kosovo is her current focus and a shared objective pursued at the regional level through Balkan Civil Society Development Network.

**Ilir KALEMAJ** is the chair of Department of Humanities, Law and Social Sciences and Director of MSc in International Relations at the University of New York in Tirana. He obtained his Ph.D. in International Relations at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, where he also received his M.A. In addition he obtained his B.A. in International Relations/Political Science from University of New York Tirana and a B.A. and LLM from University of Tirana/ Faculty of Law. He has published three books and more than twenty peer review journal articles and book chapters. His most recent monograph is *Contested Borders: Territorialization of National Identity and Shifts of "Imagined Geographies"* in Albania. Bern: Peter Lang. Ilir is also active publishing in academic journals, and extensive experience as a freelance writer, regularly contributing in the national and regional press.





**Jovana MAROVIĆ** is the Politikon network's executive director, a think tank based in Podgorica. Between 2004-2016, she worked as a counselor for the EU in the 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 Institute Alternative and Special Advisor to the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare. Jovana is a member of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group. She is also engaged in lecturing and consulting, working on the World Bank, SIGMA and CARE's projects. She holds a PhD from the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade. The topic of her doctoral dissertation referred to the problem of the democratic deficit in the EU. Jovana has successfully completed several specialized diplomatic programs, including the Diplomatic Academy organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Faculty of Law, University of Montenegro. Since March 2012 she has been a member of the working group for Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights within the Montenegrin accession negotiations for EU membership.

**Ivana RADIĆ MILOSAVLJEVIĆ** is currently working as a teaching assistant at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences on BA and Master Courses (Political System of the EU, Constitutionalism in the EU, Researching Crises in the EU, and Academic Skills). She is engaged in a teaching and research project supported by the EU's Jean Monnet Programme (Erasmus+). Ivana does research on the politicization process in the EU (a PhD) by comparing these processes with those in other contemporary consociational democracies (Switzerland, Belgium). She is interested in politics in the EU, issues of legitimization, democratization, and possibilities of a public sphere in the EU. She has a vast experience in advising and consulting activities, especially in the field of European integration process.



**Jan NIKLAS ENGELS** has been the director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) office in Budapest, Hungary since August 2013. He holds an MA degree in politics and public administration. Moreover, he studied at the University of Konstanz (Germany) and at the University of Limerick (Ireland) and specialized in International Relations. In 2000-01, he took part in the Postgraduate Training Program of the German Development Institute in Bonn. Since 2001 he works for the FES. He was FES Resident Representative in Bénin and responsible for the West African Regional Project of FES on trade policies and FES activities in Togo, Burkina Faso and Niger. From 2008 to 2013, he was in charge of the "International Monitor of Social Democracy" conducted by the International Policy Analysis Unit of the FES headquarter in Berlin.

**Hana SEMANIĆ** is research fellow at the Central European University, Centre for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS). She joined CENS in November 2010, concentrating on SEE-EU relations with a special focus on the Western Balkans. Hana earned her M.A. degree in International Relations and European Studies from the CEU in 2010. Her thesis focused on the security sector reform analyzing the dissimilar forms and modalities of local ownership in defense and police reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Before coming to the CEU, she worked for a development agency (2007-2009) managing cross-border cooperation projects between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.



**Sanja TEPAVČEVIĆ** is postdoctoral research fellow at Budapest Business University. Previously she led the Frontiers of Democracy Initiative at Central European University. Sanja holds a Russian Diploma in Journalism from Moscow State University, MA in International Relations and European Studies, and a PhD in Political Science from Central European University. Her research is focused on, but not limited to, Russian foreign policy and foreign direct investments of Russian companies. She served as teaching assistant for MA courses in Central European University's Departments of Political Science, International Relations, and Public Policy. She also participated in numerous graduate and professional conferences in Europe and the United States. Her publications appear in Journal of Eastern European Management Studies and United Nations' Transnational Corporations Journal. Sanja has a decade of experience as a journalist,

working for state-controlled and independent Russian media, including Radio Station Voice of Russia, Author's Television, and Serbian TV-channel Politika. She is also a contributor for Geopolitika, Croatian analytical portal.

**Damjan ZDRAVEV** is a civil society activist and researcher. He holds an MA in conflict transformation and peace building from the Eastern Mennonite University in the USA. Damjan is a long standing activist from Macedonia and has more than ten years of experience in developing and implementing various interventions for community organizing, civic engagement, gender equality and good governance. He currently lives in Serbia where he researches youth employability.

