



Conference

Boosting the Social Dimension

The contribution of
economic governance
to decent work and life
in the Western Balkans
and Turkey

#EUWBTRSocial

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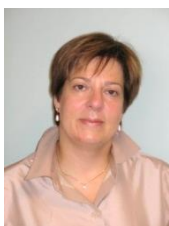
SPEAKERS LIST



Lluís PRATS is a Member of the Barcelona Bar Association and MBA (Trinity College Dublin). He worked in the Spanish National and Local Administrations and joined the European Commission in 1995, where for the past 22 years he had several responsibilities in the Directorate-General for External Relations and in the DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. He is currently the Head of Unit for International Issues in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, promoting the external dimension of EU employment and social policies.



Gazmend TURDIU took office as Head of Program Department at the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) on 2 September 2013, after serving four years as Secretary General at the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2009-2013). He joined the Foreign Service of his country (Albania) in May 1992 and held several positions, both in Tirana and abroad. Mr. Turdiu was Ambassador of Albania in Bern, Switzerland (1992-1997), and Ambassador of Albania in Berlin, Germany (2003-2008). At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of his country, Mr. Turdiu has held the position of the Director of the Department for Euroatlantic Cooperation (1998-2000), Director of the Department of Europe (2003), and Director General for Legal and Consular Affairs (2008-2009). From 2001 to 2002, Mr. Turdiu served as Director General for Coordination of Foreign Aid at the Albanian Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Trade. During his career, Mr. Turdiu has been member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (2009), President of the 10th Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention (2010-2011) and member of the Council of Foundation of the Geneva Center for Humanitarian Demining (2010 to 2013). Mr. Turdiu holds a Civil Engineering Degree from the University of Tirana. Born on 6 April 1959, he speaks Albanian, English and Italian.



Christiane WESTPHAL is an expert in employment, social and education policies at the European Commission. She supports the employment and social dimension of the economic reform process in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Previously she developed a number of European Commission initiatives on youth and employment and contributed to the design of the Europe2020 strategy. Before joining the European Commission in 1998, Christiane worked on EU enlargement and international trade files at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in Germany. She holds a degree in Latin and German studies from the University of Cologne.



Mihail ARANDARENKO is Full Professor of Labor Economics at the Faculty of Economics, Belgrade University and Board Chairman of the Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN). His research areas include labor markets, employment programs, industrial relations and social policy. He has received various national and international grants for labor market research and has been a consultant throughout South Eastern Europe for leading international agencies.



Hakan ERCAN is an Associate Professor with a specialization in applied labor economics and microeconometrics, at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. He is interested in the labor market outcomes of women and youth, as well as in the trends in wage inequality. His work also examines occupational outlook in Turkey and the impact evaluation of anti-crisis policy measures on the Turkish labor market. In addition to various economics courses, he regularly teaches a graduate course on the economics of climate change in the Department of Earth System Sciences.

Dr. Ercan holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Iowa, and a BSc and MSc in electrical and electronics engineering from the Middle East Technical University. He was the independent national labor market expert for Turkey within the European Employment and Policy Observatory of the European Union between 2003 and 2016.

Recently, Dr. Ercan was a senior expert for the EC supported Social Security Institution (SGK) project KITUP II (fighting unregistered employment) in 2016. In 2015, he was part of a team that has conducted an impact assessment of anti-crisis employment measures for the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.”



Kiril KIRYAKOV is International Policy Officer in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission, where he deals with EU external relations with third countries on a variety of employment and social policy issues. Prior to his current post, he worked on employment and social policy initiatives and the management of the European Social Fund within the geographical unit for Bulgaria.

Before joining the European Commission in 2009, Kiril Kiryakov has worked for 10 years in the area of international development cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development and the United Nations Development Programme. He has extensive experience in working on good governance, employment and social policy issues in the Western Balkan region. He holds a Master degree in Labour Economics from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria.



Lars Michael ENGSTED has the Danish nationality and has a Masters degree in Economic and Business Administration from the Copenhagen Business School. Before joining the European Commission in 2001 he worked as a consultant for the Statistical office of the European Commission EUROSTAT. He started his career for the European Commission working in the Commission's Directorate-General for "Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities" (DG EMPL) as a desk officer on the Danish geographical desk responsible for the ESF programs and the monitoring of the corresponding national policies. In 2007 he moved to the Directorate of "Employment, Lisbon strategy and International Affairs" where

he was in charge of developing and monitoring the implementation of the European Employment Strategy. In 2015 he became Team leader of the European Semester team coordinating the input of DG EMPL to the annual work of the Commission on the European Semester and the policy advice given to Member States. Since 2015 he has been in charge of monitoring and developing the implementation of the common principles of Flexicurity adopted by Member States in 2007.



Nikica MOJSOSKA-BLAZEVSKI Is Professor of Economics and Director of the Doctoral programme at the School of Business Economics and Management at University American College Skopje. Prior to 2009, she has worked as a Head of the Macroeconomic Policy Department in the Macedonian Ministry of Finance. She has an extensive experience in research, consultancy and advising in labour markets, social policy and education in the Western Balkan region. She has been so far working with major international economic organisations, such as the World Bank, ILO, UNDP, UN Women and the European Commission. Mojsoska-Blazevski is an author of many journal articles and several book chapters, mainly in the area of macroeconomics, labour market, education and social system and policy.

Nikica has served as an advisor to the government' institutions in Macedonia and the Western Balkan region. She is a member of well-established international research organisations, such as the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies (EACES), European Association of Labour Economists (EALE), London School of Economics (LSE) Research Network on South-East Europe, etc.



Akansel KOÇ, born in 1971, is presently Secretary General of Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations (TİSK). He acts as the chief executive officer of the Confederation, leading its daily business and operations.

He has held the General Secretariat of Leather Industry Employers' Association (TUDIS) between the years of 1993-2017. He was also a Member of the Assembly of Leather and Leather Products of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). He was also President, Vice President and Member of the Board of National Productivity Centre as well as Member to Minimum Wage Commission.

Mr. Koç being the Founder of the Koç Management Consultancy and Training Services as well as Erk Occupational Health and Safety Company, has also been independent Board Member of several companies listed on the stock market. He has also implemented various EU funded Projects as coordinator.

He has numerous researches, analysis and articles on economic and social issues regarding industrial relations, occupational health and safety, human resources and working life. In addition to his publications, He wrote a book called "A New Period in Working Life" together with Prof. Tankut Centel.



Bojana STANIĆ is Acting Assistant Minister for Labour and Employment in the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.

She has a business experience as a sole proprietor- founder in a period 1992-1999. She has a strong legal background given the fact that from 2000 unit 2004 she was a Law Clerk and from 2004 until 2010 she was an Attorney at Law. She finished a Bar Exam.

She is Co-founder and Co-proprietor of a business partnership of lawyers "Stanić and partners" in Belgrade.

Since July 2017, she is responsible for labour and employment policy in the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia, and she is in charge of implementation of the European standards in mentioned fields. She is a Deputy President of the Governmental Negotiation Group for Chapter 2- Free Movement of Workers.



Ana MARAŠ has been working for Montenegrin Employers Federation (MEF) for almost ten years now. Since 2013 she has been holding a post of a Head of Department for Education and Members Support. MEF has an important role to play in socio-economic life of the country having in mind that they are the representative employers' organisation and thereby a social partner to the Government and the trade unions.

As a Head of Department in the organisation with such a mandate, Ana is responsible for analysis and revision of the main issues companies face in the labour market and in the field of human capital development in Montenegro. MEF strongly advocates for employers' interests so Ana's role is to represent companies while participating in policy making in the field of employment (especially of youth) and education. She closely cooperates with all the relevant stakeholders in the field of human capital development and employment on both national and international level, such as ministries of labour and education, Public Employment Agency, European Training Foundation, ILO, etc. Other fields of Ana's work include SME skills development and entrepreneurship education.



Colin WILLIAMS is Professor of Public Policy in the Management School at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom. Since 2016, he has been lead expert to the European Commission's European Platform Tackling Undeclared Work, providing support to the member states of the European Union and social partners in combating the undeclared economy. Between 2013 and 2017, he led the Marie Skłodowska Curie Industry-Academia Partnership Programme (IAPP) on 'developing capacities and capabilities for tackling undeclared work in Bulgaria, Croatia and FYR Macedonia', and during 2016 led the mission to develop a roadmap for tackling undeclared work in Greece. His research interests are in undeclared work, labour practices and entrepreneurship, subjects on which he has published some 30 books and over 400 journal articles over the past 30 years.

His recent books include: *Entrepreneurship in the Informal Sector: an institutional perspective* (2018, Routledge); *The Informal Economy: exploring drivers and practices* (2018, Routledge); *The Informal Economy in Global Perspective* (2017, Palgrave Macmillan); *Entrepreneurship and the Shadow Economy: a European perspective*, (2016, Edward Elgar); and *Measuring the Global Shadow Economy: the prevalence of informal work and labour* (2016 Edward Elgar).



Markus PILGRIM is Director of the ILO Office for Central and Eastern Europe. The office provides advisory services to 18 ILO member countries promoting more and better jobs for all women and men. Geographically, the office concentrates on Western Balkans, Moldova, and Ukraine. The office is located in Budapest with additional offices in the region www.ilo.org/budapest.

Before taking over the ILO office in Budapest Markus Pilgrim worked as Head of the Small and Medium Enterprises unit (SME) at ILO headquarters in Geneva (www.ilo.org/sme). Prior to joining ILO, Markus worked as Manager of the Youth Employment Network (a partnership of UN, ILO, and World Bank) and as regional program manager for International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group, based in Cairo, Egypt, coordinating a portfolio of technical assistance projects on private sector promotion in the Middle East and North Africa. Other previous experience includes eight years as Managing Director of the Foundation for Economic Development and Vocational Training (SEQUA), a joint development agency of the German chambers and business associations.

Markus Pilgrim holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Göttingen University, Germany.



Ardiana GASHI is Professor Assistant in Faculty of Economics, at University of Prishtina. In 2007, she was awarded PhD in Labour Economics, from Staffordshire University in UK. Since 2008, Ardiana acted as consultant in poverty assessment and from 2012 also in analysing Labour Survey Data. In 2017, Ardiana acted as senior economist for the Labour Force and Time Use survey, implemented by Social Impact and commissioned by Millennium Challenge Corporation. Ardiana has extensive experience in research projects in area of labour economics and education, commissioned by European Commission, Council of Europe, ETF, GIZ, UNDP, IOM, London School of Economics, etc. Ardiana contributed in developing several national Strategic documents, mainly in area of employment and education. Finally, Ardiana has strong interest and has been working in gender equality related policy development, evaluations and research.



Marina VUČIĆEVIĆ has worked in different position in the state administration, second stage of administration procedure and foreign insurance. She was a part of negotiation delegation for the conclusion of international bilateral agreements on social security between the FRY, the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and Montenegro and Serbia, Luxembourg, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Macedonia, Switzerland, Croatia, Slovenia, Turkey, Bosnia Herzegovina and other countries. Preparation for negotiation process, the drafting of international bilateral agreements on social insurance, preparation of the draft law on the ratification of these agreements, as fulfilling the internal legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of these agreements.

At the moment, Ms Vučićević is the head of the Department for labor relations in the Directorate for Labor of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. I am currently responsible for the most complicated normative legal affairs, in particular the regulations in the field of labor relations as well as monitoring the system of labor relations and proposing appropriate measures for the improvement of this area.

Marina Vučićević participates in the activities related to the negotiations on the accession of Montenegro to the EU under the chapters of the labor legislation and monitoring and harmonizing labor relations regulations with relevant EU regulations.

Ms Vučićević is a Co-author of the Manual for the Practical Implementation of the Law on Free Access to and Member of the Working Group on Negotiation Chapter 19 Social Policy and Employment. She is also Coordinator in Negotiation Chapter 30 External relations.



Zoran STOJILJKOVIC is the President of Trade Union Confederation NEZAVISNOST (UGS NEZAVISNOST), elected at the Congress held in November 2016. He was born in Pozega, Republic of Serbia, on June 25, 1953. He graduated, finished his master's degree and PhD at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, where he now works as a professor.

In addition to more than 150 articles and monographs, eight Stojiljkovic's books are published: The Dictionary of Democracy (1988), The parties system of Serbia (2008), Conflict and/or Dialogue (2008), Serbia in the Labyrinth of Transition (2011), The State and Corruption (2013), All Faces of the Opposition (2015), Citizens and Servants (2016) and Serbia seeks a Leader (2017). Stojiljkovic is also the author of two thirds of texts for the book Political Sociology of Contemporary Society (2014), used as the textbook at the Faculty. According to the subject, these scientific papers belong to the political sociology of contemporary society, the theory of modern state, parties and party systems, corruption and anti-corruption strategies, as well as the problematic research of trade unions and civil society - the scientific disciplines in which Stojiljkovic participates at the Faculty of Political Sciences.

In addition to his academic work and trade union engagement, Zoran Stojiljkovic was also a member of the Anti-Corruption Agency Board in two terms.



Svetlana BUDIMČEVIĆ has a law background - Graduate Lawer - Barrister in Law, Master of Labour and Social Law with Certificate of Achievement Certificate course „Macroeconomics for social negotiators” in International Labour Organization - International Training Centre in Turin (Italy) and since 1998 has worked in different positions in the District Court in Sremska Mitrovica, the Municipal Parliament of Sremska Mitrovica and Serbian Association of Employers.

Svetlana Budimčević is presently Head of Business and Legal Affairs Sector in Serbian Association of Employers. SAE is a voluntary, non-governmental and non-partisan organization representing the interests of employers in the Republic of Serbia, while protecting the interests of national economy and sustainable development. SAE imperatives are: market liberalization and greater economic freedom, eradication of corruption and suppression of the grey economy, simplification of administrative and bureaucratic procedures, implementation of European legislation, and control of public procurement, improving the efficiency of commercial courts, encouraging competitiveness and suppressing monopoly, education in line with the needs of modern business. Sector is responsible for monitoring of regulations in the field of labour, social policy and employment policy, writing strategic documents for SAE, legal support to the SAE bodies, preparation of initiatives and professional and analytical materials in the field of Labour Law, developing relationships and cooperation with trade unions, participation in social dialogue at all levels, preparation of legislative initiatives, drafting of new bills through working groups and committees established by the Government, participation in collective bargaining at branch level and the level of employer, representation of the interests of members of the SAE before ministries, government and other bodies and organisations, organisation of seminars/trainings programmes/workshops for employees and employers both from private and public sector in the field of Labour Law and other regulations and Human Resources, consultancy to the SAE members in the field of Labour Law (labour, collective negotiation, peaceful resolution of labour disputes etc.) and other regulations etc.



Marina PETROVIC is a Senior Social Protection Specialist at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. In her current role, Marina Petrovic works on different analytical and investment lending products. The focus of her work is on designing, implementing, and evaluating social protection programs in a number of countries of the Europe and Central Asia region. Prior to joining the World Bank, she conducted extensive research and policy work on integrated labour market and social service delivery models. She divided her time between working for a Serbia based think-tank and consulting for various international organizations (World Bank, ILO, UNDP) and governments.



Kai LEICHSENRING studied Political Sciences (Social Policy) at the University of Vienna and specialised in comparative and applied social research and policy consultancy with a focus on social welfare policy, ageing, health and long-term care, and related issues such as governance and financing, quality management, user involvement and informal care. Apart from coordinating many national and European R&D projects he collaborated with a number of regional and national governments, and international agencies (UNECE, OECD, WHO, Worldbank). He published many reports, articles and books, e.g. Long-term care in Europe – Improving policy and practice (ed. with J. Billings & H. Nies), Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. Since 2016 he is the Executive Director at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, an intergovernmental organisation affiliated to the United Nations with the purpose to foster the collaboration between governments and organisations in the field of social welfare. Building on comparative empirical research on social policy in the UN-European Region, a special focus of the European Centre’s bridge-building activities has been put on (potential) EU candidate countries and the countries of the Eastern Partnership with the aim to improve social welfare policies.



Milos JANKOVIC is Acting Assistant Minister for Family Protection and Social Affairs in the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. He has a working experience as Editor, Chief Editor, Director and Sales Manager in several publishing houses in the Republic of Serbia: Nolit, BIGZ, Sloboda, etc. In his professional career he was a Secretary General of BK Foundation, Executive Director of the World Rowing Championship in Belgrade, Member of the Managing Board of the Institute for Schoolbooks and Member of the Managing Board of JAT Airways. He was Adviser to Managing Director of Postal Services of Serbia, Member of Supervisory Board of Sava Congress Center in Belgrade Expert Associate in the Research Center for Crime and Police Academy, Chief Editor of publishing house Beostampa, Writer with the status of renowned free-lance writer, Chairman of the Assembly of the Publishing House Prosveta, visiting lecturer at the specialist studies at the School of Security on the subject Global Terrorism and Crisis Management and visiting lecturer at the School of Political Sciences for the subject Religion and Terrorism and State Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Sport of the Republic of Serbia.

Presently, Milos Jankovic is responsible of family protection, social benefits scheme, protection of children and social protection and he is a Deputy President of the Governmental Negotiation Group for Chapter 19- Social Policy and Employment.



Elira JORGONI has more than 15 years of professional experience in governance and public policies with a particular focus on social issues. She has authored and co-authored several policy research and assessment studies at the national and regional level on issues such as social inclusion and social protection, migration, human rights and vulnerable groups. Since 2013, Elira has been supporting the reform of social care reform in Albania through various assignments such as territorial administrative reform implications for social welfare provisioning and the role of local government, evaluation of the cash assistance schemes as well as improving the planning, implementation and monitoring of employment and social sector reforms for EU accession and more recently on issues related policy responses to domestic violence.

Elira has been providing support to Government sector self-assessment for preparation of EU strategic document for IPA II as well as the sector approach and budget support for the Employment Social Policy Sector. She has worked with a number of local and international partners such as EC, WB, OECD, ETF, UNICEF, UNDP, SDC, ADA, etc. She conducted her university studies in Romania, her Erasmus postgraduate studies in London and Florence. Elira has teamed up in newly established local think tank organization in Albania.



Andreas PAPADOPOULOS is Advisor on Economic Governance in the European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). In this capacity he provides analytical support and policy advice to DG NEAR senior management on economic developments and policies in the partner countries. One particular area of his work is the annual policy dialogue with the countries of the Western Balkans and with Turkey based on the enlargement partners' medium-term Economic Reform Programmes.

Prior to DG NEAR, during his professional career in the European Commission, Andreas Papadopoulos worked on many different aspects, both analytical and operational, of the European Union's economic relations with third countries: development, transition economics, trade. In particular, in his work in the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, he managed a number of programmes of macro-financial assistance to transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe.

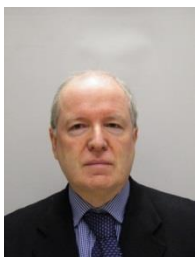


Alper DINCER As part of EBRD's economic inclusion team Alper Dincer supports the design, appraisal and monitoring of investment projects which enhance youth, gender and regional inclusion in a wide-range of developing countries spanning from Central Asia to North Africa. Before joining the EBRD Alper was the Thomas J. Alexander Fellow at the OECD and the research coordinator of Education Reform Initiative at Sabanci University, Istanbul. Alper holds a PhD in Economics and Education from Columbia University and his interests lie at the intersections of skills formation, inequality and development.



Ivan SEKULOVIĆ graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade and then gained his first professional experience in EU affairs as journalist of the *Ekonomist*, a Belgrade weekly. He joined the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Affairs of the Government of Serbia in 2006 as European Integration Advisor. There he set up the first EU accession groups, for chapters on social policy and employment and freedom of movement of workers. In 2009 he became a coordinator in charge of EU funds in the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) of the Government of Serbia. The SIPRU provides support to the Government to coordinate, monitor and report on the efforts of the Government in the field of social inclusion.

Ivan Sekulović has been the Manager of the SIPRU since December 2015. Under his lead, the SIPRU has boosted the social dimension of Serbia's EU accession process as member of six groups set up by the Government for EU accession negotiations. SIPRU has developed the Guidance for Social Impact Assessment of the Economic Reform Programme, the EU Gender Equality Index for Serbia and the Employment and Social Reform Programme, adopted by the Government of Serbia in 2016.



Will BARTLETT is Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Political Economy of South East Europe at the LSEE Research Unit of the European Institute, and Visiting Research Fellow at the International Inequalities Institute, at the LSE. He is Coordinator of the LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion in South East Europe. He gained his PhD at the University of Liverpool on the theme of unemployment and migration in the former Yugoslavia. He has worked as a Lecturer, Reader, and Professor at the Universities of Southampton, Bath and Bristol, and a Research Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. His research has focused on the social economics of labour markets, migration, education systems and skill mismatches, the performance of cooperatives and small firms, through the perspective of political economy. He is the author of *Europe's Troubled Region: Economic Development, Institutional Reform and Social Welfare in the Western Balkans*, Routledge, 2008, and numerous articles in refereed journals such as the *Journal of Development Economics*, *Small Business Economics*, *Social Policy & Administration*, *European Journal of Education*, *European Planning Studies*, *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* and *Southeast Europe and Black Sea Studies*.



Cesare ONESTINI took up the position of Director of the European Training Foundation in September 2017.

Since 1995 he worked for the European institutions starting with the promotion of cooperation in education and training; in particular he developed projects for intercultural education, he coordinated school partnerships and teachers' mobility across Member States and was part of the team developing proposals for the first EU programmes for Life Long Learning.

More recently, he has worked for the European Union in external relations, international trade, security and crisis management including at the EU Delegation to the UN in New York. Dr. Onestini played a key role in setting up the European External Action Service, before his appointment as Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to India and Bhutan, where he served for three years.

For the 2013-14 academic year, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. Dr. Onestini graduated from Oxford University.



Tamsin ROSE is a Senior Fellow at Friends of Europe and an experienced facilitator. She is also a member of the external speaker team for the European Commission Directorate General for Communication, describing how the EU works and key policies to visitor groups from around the world. Since 2002, Rose has specialised in public health and public participation issues, serving as Secretary General of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), and providing strategic advice for health groups on how to engage with the EU.