We believe that human capital is a key precondition for positive social change. – Institute for Political and International Studies
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Institute for Political and International Studies

IPIS’s envisioned future is to become the most influential Balkan think-tank offering sound analysis as well as advice and influencing policy agendas of Macedonia and the Southeast European region in various formats. Also, we envision offering an abundance of research resources (databases; books; articles; papers; internet based resources and other logistical support) to individual researchers, professionals, journalist, students, civil society organizations and interested parties. No important national or regional policy issues will be discussed without IPIS experts taking part in the debate offering analysis on said issues.

IPIS will be sought out, as a provider of policy advice, by governments, civil society organizations and private companies. We believe that IPIS’s research work, carried out with patience and persistence, will bring new life to public policy; good governance will be advanced, knowledge increased, and human existence improved. We will be respected and admired by our peers and academics. Our analyses and policy solutions will be actively sought by governments and companies.

The best up-and-coming people in the academic world will seek to cooperate with our think-tank. We feel that IPIS will contribute to society in a positive way.

Prof. Dr. Ylber Sela
President
December 31, 2013
About us

The Institute for political and International Studies (IPIS) is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental and non-profit, think-tank organization. It has been created by a group of intellectuals and analysts with extensive experience in foreign policy, and policy-making issues, who are gathered around the idea of democracy, solidarity, globalization, European integration, political and international studies and regional cooperation.

The long term objectives of the Institute are to work on balanced socio-economic development, capacity building and trainings, active citizen engagement and participative political culture. In these directions, we focus our activities on rule of law, evidence based policy research, good governance and multiethnic and multicultural co-existence.

We believe that human capital is a key precondition for positive social change. Hence we eagerly undertake capacity building projects based on said skills and knowledge transfer.

Finally, ISPS’s growth is directly linked to availability of resources for self-reflection. In this sense, we advocate policy recommendations and strive to enrich public discourse through promotion of evidence based policy, publishing public events, diligent team work and individual productivity, and working closely with other national and international research institutions.
Conferences

25-26 January 2013 International Conference – SEE University

“DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA”

Main issues, Trends and Developments in the Future

Most Western Balkan countries have used decentralization reforms as a tool for finding solutions to national issues related to inter-ethnic conflicts, and as a need for reducing the centralized competences inherited from socialist regimes. On the other hand, decentralization can be a controversial process. During implementation governments hesitate to transfer power to local governments because they are afraid that they won’t be able to fulfill their duties. However, on the other hand municipalities are asking for more responsibilities in order to fulfill the needs of the local populations. Decentralization realities in Macedonia show that this public reform has a long term scope and it cannot be implemented fully in a specific timeframe by decision makers or international factors. Until now decentralization had a positive effect. However, the success of decentralization depends on two main factors: support from the central government and a proper response from local governments and citizens. Also,
international organizations whom have contributed in developing this process in the past still must contribute to this process, especially with resources and interventions.

Thus, the decentralization process is still stumped by several limitations. Raising trust in local government and the fact that some municipalities have achieved high results in offering services and urban development has happened. However, the implementation of reforms for decentralizing successfully fiscal and administrative decisions hasn’t achieved a satisfactory level. They still have institutional weakness and low implementation capacity which limits the participation of citizens as well as transparency and responsibility of local government. Political resistance and bureaucratic blocking continue to slow down decentralization.

This helped our scientific research by giving us facts, analyses, research and other documents which will fulfill this process.
Euro-regions models could promote regional development based on socially effective and ecologically friendly approaches. It contributes to a stable long-term cooperation by reducing the differences caused by varying degrees of development across the participating regions.

Euro-regions can help create and strengthen cross-border partnerships and expand cooperation by learning about the economic growth norms from neighboring countries. Strengthening the cooperation between Macedonian local authorities, businesses and civil society with their counterparts from the border regions of neighboring countries as are Albania, Greece, Bulgaria and Kosovo. This approach encourages the redistribution of authority between central governments and border communities to empower local residents to take an active part in the economic and social development of their localities.
The project is the first long-lasting initiative of this kind to promote Euro-region as a unique mechanism for the interaction between civic initiatives, local authorities and businesses on both sides of the Western Balkan border.
26th November 2013 Skopje, R. Macedonia – SEE University

**Regional Economic Conference**

“Balkan Benelux”

The current global crisis has reached the southern Balkans at a very unfortunate moment just at the end of the first decade of reconstruction and statehood. Now in the 6th year of the crisis, public, companies, and family reserves are reaching a new low. The modest achievements in savings and wealth accumulated in the reconstruction decade are reaching their limit. Many built-in buffers in countries, companies, and families used to hard time and deep crisis being a reality for the last decades reach their end. Greece and Italia as main partners continue to be far from their past strength and motor of development of the region. One of the remedies for the southern Balkans is stronger regional economic integration and new export markets within the region. This is true for all 4 countries of the Southern Balkans. Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro will benefit from closer cooperation and the international community should actively encourage and support such integration efforts. Much faster than an eventual EU Membership, obviously the ultimate goal of all southern Balkans countries, such a new partnership will bring these countries together and so allow them to create a joint economic dynamic and a growth agenda missing up to now. The countries need economic growth now and have no time to lose. Growth is necessary to create jobs, prosperity, and living conditions to keep the people here in the region by creating the conditions for sustainable economic growth and ensuring the
ambitious EU Integration agenda can be realized. All 4 countries will only be member of the EU in foreseeable future if they are seen as a success story in Brussels and the EU member states capitals. Successfully cooperating within the region will lead first to better economic conditions and will as well be a contribution to convince the EU that the region is mature and ready for the EU. Possible role models for such cooperation might be the Benelux, Visegrad and Northern Council cooperation in other parts of the EU.
6 December 2013, Skopje, R. Macedonia, EU infoCentre

“European Macedonia”

Institute for Political and International Studies in partnership with IG Alpbach Macedonia and Austrian Embassy in Macedonia organized Round Table with topic: Openness and Freedom – European Macedonia which was held in EU infoCentre on 6\textsuperscript{th} December 2013 in Skopje.
Summer School

13-20 September 2013 International Summer School in Struga

“Regional cooperation along western Balkan”

The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) and the Institute of Collaboration for Integration and Development (ICID), organized the Summer School on Regional Co-operation in Western Balkans which held place in Struga, Macedonia, 13-21 September 2013.
Themes of the summer school:

- Integrating the Western Balkans through cross border cooperation;
- Future perspectives under EU integration processes;
- Socio economic realities and future projections in the Western Balkans;
- Western Balkan as a Model of “Balkan Benelux”;
- Education, youth in the Western Balkans;
- New Media and Civil Society, in the Western Balkans;
- Sustainable development along Western Balkans territories and societies;
- Pan European Corridors of Transport and Communication;
- Western Balkans, as a cross of socio economic and geopolitics;
International Special Price

25 January 2013

The Director of the Institute Prof. Dr. Ylber Sela was rewarded with Special Price Academicus International Scientific Journal as best publisher, with theme: "Visa liberalization and economic implication for the Western Balkan" by Editor in chief Prof. Dr. Arta Musaraj.
Projects

The project “Ecological Education”, financed by the Ministry of Environment and physical planning, was realized in period from 06.06.2013 to 06.12.2013. In this project were included a series of activities with the high schools students in Skopje. The Staff of IPIS realized six month training in cooperation with high schools students in Skopje for a clean environment, for a green nature and ecological education.
Publications

Publication of the Book

“THE BALKAN YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW”

Behalf of the 100 Anniversary of the Balkan wars 1912-2012

Editor: Prof. Dr. Ylber Sela
The chart of this book includes a wide range of topics, from multiculturalism and interethnic coexistence, education-information society-Bologne process, religious education and secularism, university youth-politics-ethics, identity issues in a globalized world (European Muslim), new Ottomanism, traditional foundations in the postmodern era, a sociological treatment of the poetry of Mehmet Akif Ersoy, to actual subjects like the ethno-urbanization à la "Skopje 2014".

Writings are arranged chronologically by date of presentation to the scientific opinion and are intended to illuminate the events objectively, reflect the spirit of social life and dynamics, while not remaining in the shackles of cave idols, without redundant artificialities and philosophical gravities.
The scientific work *Quality of life in global crisis era: The reality of the Albanians in the Republic of Macedonia*, by professors Pajaziti, Abdullai and Aziri, is an empirical-analytic research based on relevant indicators of the situation and living conditions of one part of Macedonian citizens - the Albanian community, which from social marginalization seeks to be part of the society that must give life to *social justice*. IPIS, as a new institution, includes research and publishing activity in its mission and will always be ready to contribute in this direction, for scientific reflection and interpretation, for using the intellectual *know how* and for “curing” social problems through rational methods.
Publication of the Book,

"DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS" Main Issues, Trends and Development in the Future

Editor: Prof. Dr. Ylber Sela
Stuff

Contact information of active Stuff

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