We believe that human capital is a key precondition for positive social change.
– Institute for Political and International Studies
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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 (data bases; 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 by debating and offering analysis on the 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. YlberSela
President
December 31, 2015
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

4 – 8 May 2015, Skopje

European week in Chair “EUROPEAN DAYS”

In May, the Institute for Political and International Studies in cooperation with the Çair municipality organised European week.

During the discussion we guested various experts from Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo. The Austrian ambassador in Macedonia – Dr. Thomas Michael Baier – was our honoured guest and had the opportunity to talk about the experiences of the Republic of Austria as a European Union member.

In the opening of the conference was shown a documentary film about foundation of European Union. The documentary film was prepared by IPIS.

During the discussion about the Albanians and their challenges regarding European integration, the experts from Albania and Kosovo presented their ideas, opinions and suggestions regarding the problem.

The European week ended with a peace march for freedom, democracy and equality.
Conferences

5 June 2015 – Skopje
International Conference on Regional Cooperation

“VIENNA CONGRESS AND THE BALKANS – 200 YEARS LATER (1815-2015)”

History always teaches us about events, the past and their influence to the different period of time of the societies around the world. In this context Vienna Congress – 200 year ago, was one of the most important and significant venues, where many issues where raised about the future of the Europe in general and parts or regions of it in particular. The year 2015 is marking the 200th anniversary of the Congress of Vienna. This high diplomatic European gathering (1814-1815) was one of the key historical dates of the modern multilateral diplomacy. It resume Napoleon period of France’ domination, and introduced Austro-Hungary legacy of European diplomacy. As Kissinger would write, the 19 Century was dominated by Austrian diplomacy of Metternik. With the organization of this conference the Institute for Political and International Studies together with the other participants put a light on the past and offered a vision for the future of the region, 200 years after the Vienna Congress. The main theses enhanced during the conference were:

− The Vienna Congress; an historical approach ,
− The economic, social, political and military structures of Europe and geopolitical circumstances that led to the Vienna Congress,
− The impact of Vienna Congress for European border regime,
− The Vienna Congress impact on the economic, social, politic and military future?
− After 200 years since the Vienna Congress what is the role of the USA, Russia,
Western Europe and Turkey regarding the development of a regional perspective in the future?
− The legacy of the Vienna Congress for European peace,
− The geopolitical impact of the decision of the Vienna Congress for the Balkans,
− The development of the Balkans as reflection of the Vienna Congress,
− Issues, proposals and solutions in regards to this period of history; including international cooperation,
− Proposals regarding the continuation of economic cooperation,
− Continued positive strategies in respect to cultural diversity and segregation,
− Collaboration and partnership for social security issues,
− Positive continuity approaches in the context of cultural diversity and divisions,
− Balkan states and European integration 200 years after the Vienna Congress.

The conference took place in SEE University in Skopje on 5 June 2015, with numerous participants from abroad and in cooperation with Apbach Forum – Macedonia as well as with the support of the Austrian Embassy in Skopje.

At the conference academic scientists and researchers from Western Balkan, European Union and accredited diplomats participated and gave a speech. This successful activity gathered students, lecturers and professionals across the Western Balkan. In this context we express gratitude for their addresses to Ms. Ulrike Lunacek – vice President of the European Parliament, Prof. Dr. Lidija Čehulić Vukadinović – University of Zagreb, Dr. Gunther Ferlinger – Austrian Kosovo Society and to other participants.

H.E. Thomas Baier addressed the conference participants with interesting speech showing the importance of the Austro-Hungarian Empire influence to the peaceful settlement of many open issues and avoidance of the conflicts in Balkan.

Selected working papers of the conference were published by the Institute for Political and International Studies on December 2015.
Workshops

28-29 October 2015 Skopje

“CIVIL SOCIETY AND CONTEMPORARY SECURITY CHALLENGES”

Workshop organized form IPIS in close cooperation with the French Embassy-Français Alliance and High School of Journalism –Paris, raised interest to many students on all levels of studies from the different universities and faculties of the country and the region. Special guest of the event was Professor Cécile Vrain from France. The topics of the two day workshop were:

- Emigrant crisis and countries respond
- Crisis in Middle East
- ISIS/ISIL
- Emigrant question and national (countries) responses
- Future challenges - international organizations response and future steps
- Women and their influence to the media
- Role of the women to the public information
- Women and media to the present emigrant crises
- Strategic communication and women

A special Their contribution to the workshop and selected topics gave Pr. Bekim Maksuti, Pr. Aurora Karameti and the Director of IPIS, Prof. Dr. Ylber Sela.
Workshops

21 December 2015 Skopje

“LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN KOSOVO”

Within the conclusion of activities for 2015, the Institute for Political and International Studies in cooperation with the municipality of Çair hosted a working visit of Major of Municipality of Shtime and President of the Association of Municipalities of Kosovo - Dr. Naim Ismajli. He addressed to the students, employers from the Çair Municipality and other presents guests with interesting thoughts about the challenges that his town and other cities in Kosovo are facing.

Short opening remarks were also given to the presents by the director of the IPIS Prof. Dr. Ylber Sela who thanked Dr. Ismajli about his visit and highlighted the importance of sharing experiences from abroad on how to manage better and more successfully the municipalities in the time of financial challenges and constrains and the growth of the needs of the citizens.

Having in mind this activity – workshop on sharing experiences, Major of Çair Municipality, Mr. Izet Mexhit raised the idea of “Pan-Albanian Association of Municipalities”, where the needs for inter-corporation between the towns and cities of the region is vital for successful development and improvement of the IPA founds of the EU.
Adelaide Etong, Lukasz Dejewski, Dominik Derlicki and Luisa Stadlmann were EVS Volunteers (European Voluntary Service) at Institute for Political and International Studies – Skopje. The European Voluntary Service (EVS) gives young people the opportunity to express their personal commitment through full-time voluntary work in a foreign country within or outside the EU.

The EVS aims to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, while contributing to strengthening social cohesion and promoting active citizenship. Their learning experience is formally recognized through a Youthpass certificate of European Commission. Volunteers are hosted by Institute for Political and International Studies in Skopje and they receive free board and lodging, insurance cover and a grant for the duration of the project.

Thanks to the intercultural dimension and its non-formal approach, European Voluntary Service is a unique opportunity to come into contact with cultures different from your own and to acquire new skills and abilities useful for your personal and professional growth.

European Voluntary Service is based on the following principles:
- Increasing your own skills through the practical experience of volunteering abroad;
- Encouraging the learning of another language;
- Developing the ability to interact with persons of different language and culture;
- Spreading tolerance among young people of the European union;
- Promoting active citizenship;
- Supporting the development of local communities.

Institute for Political and International Studies also offered possibilities for local students to volunteer on daily basis. In this context many students from different universities and faculties have used this opportunity to help the institute to the activities but also to reach experience from many fields.

We still opened to offer in 2016 the European Voluntary Service (EVS) for student from abroad.
Book Promotions

27 February 2015 - Skopje
Promotion of the book of Nazmi Beqiri:
JOURNEY TO WAR FOR PEACE

The book promotion took place at South East European University in Skopje on 27 February 2015. Book reviewers were: Prof. Dr. Ylber Sela, Dr. Bekim Maksuti and Dr. Sadri Ramabaja.
Publications

27 February 2015
Publication of the Book of the author: Fatmir FAZLIU

“PUBLIC DIPLOMACY”

FATMIR FAZLIU

DIPLOMACIA PUBLIKE

SHKUP, 2015
Publications

6 March 2015
Publication of the Book by Editor Ylber SELA

“EURO REGIONS”

Ylber Sela [Ed.]
Skopje, 2015
Publications

15 June 2015

Publication of the International Conference Book Review by Editor Ylber SELA

“THE FIRST WORLD WAR THROUGH THE PRISM OF THE BALKANS”
Publications

November 2015

Publication of the field study of the authors: Ali PAJAZITI, Ylber SELA and Jasmina TRAJKOVSKA

“MULTICULTURALISM IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA – CASE STUDY OF KUMANNOVO”
Publications

December 2015
Publication of the Book of the author: Ajten RAMADANI

“WOMEN, WAR AND LAW”
Publications

December 2015

Publication of the International Conference Book Review with Editor Ylber SELA

“VIENNA CONGRESS AND THE BALKANS – 200 YEARS LATER (1815-2015)”
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