



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND DIASPORA IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

HOTEL MONDIAL, TIRANE

27-28 October 2021

DRAFT AGENDA/ PROGRAMME

27 October 2021

08:30 – 09:00 Registration of Participants

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcoming remarks:**

Moderated by: Ms. Hanan KOVACEVIC, Western Balkans Fund (WBF)

- Welcoming remarks from Western Balkans Fund
- Welcoming remarks from Central European Initiative
- Welcoming remarks from Western Balkan Contracting Parties

09:30 – 09:45 **Introductory remarks:**

› **Russell KING** - “Unpacking the links between migration, diaspora and development” – Sussex University, UK

FIRST PANEL (Dea Room)

MIGRATION, LABOUR MARKET AND EDUCATION

Moderated by: Ms. Hanan KOVACEVIC, Western Balkans Fund (WBF)

09:45 – 10:55

› **Sandra LEITNER** - “Recent migration dynamics in the Western Balkans: Characteristics and labour market implications”- The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies



› **Ardiana GASHI** - “Migration dynamics in Kosovo: Potential implications”- University of Prishtina

› **Michael LANDESMANN, Isilda MARA** - “Interrelationships between human capital, migration and labour markets in the Western Balkans: an econometric investigation” - The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

› Discussions, remarks, conclusions

10:55 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 Second part of first panel

› **Adnan EFENDIC, Melika HUSIC-MEHMEDOVIC, Lejla TURULJA** - “Emigration intentions in a post-conflict environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina: empirical evidence from the last two decades” - School of Economics and Business, University of Sarajevo

› **Iva Vukcevic** - “Migration, and interlinkages between migration, labour force and education in Montenegro” - Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses

› **Mihail Arandarenko** - “People or workers? The changing nature of Serbian emigration” - Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade

› *Discussions, remarks, conclusions*

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 17:00 Second panel continuation

SECOND PANEL (Dea Room)

RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Moderated by: Ilir GEDESHI, Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)

› **Kalie KERPACI, Martin KUKA** - “Returning to a city without identity. Tirana in the eyes of Albanian returned migrants”- University “Aleksandër Moisiu”

› **Remus GABRIEL, Ovidiu OLTEAN** - “Ethnicity and boundary making in transnational return. Prestige, claims making and struggle in multi-ethnic Romania” - ISPMN Cluj, SNSPA Bucharest; Babes Bolyai University



- › **Aida IBRICEVIC** - “Voluntary return migration to Bosnia and Herzegovina – Obstacles, reintegration strategies, and sustainability” - Sarajevo School of Science and Technology/Peace Re-search Institute Oslo (PRIO)
- › **Ruth VOLLMER, Clara SCHMITZ-PRANGHE** - “Insights on reintegration trajectories in Western Balkan countries”- Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies
- › **Erlend PAASCHE, Hana LIMANI** - “The reintegration of rejected asylum seekers in Kosovo: Is cash king?”- Norwegian Institute for Social Research
- › **Valdon BYTYCI** - “Reintegration mechanisms in the WB”- Researcher, Pristina
- › **Talitha DUBOW** - “The return and reintegration experiences of rejected Albanian asylum-seekers” – Maastricht University
- › **Eda GEMI** - “Hybrid Identities and the ‘Unbearable Lightness’ of Belonging: Multiple trajectories of Second-Generation Albanian returnees from Greece and Italy”- University of New York Tirana

› Discussions, remarks, conclusions

28 October 2021

09:00 – 10:30 Third Panel

THIRD PANEL (Dea Room)

REMITANCES AND THEIR IMPACT

Moderated by: Ms. Luljeta MINXHOZI, Deputy Governor, Bank of Albania

- › **Elona DUSHKU, Argita FRASHERI** - “Remittances and their impact of poverty: the case of Albania”- Bank of Albania
- › **Xhuliana CELBEQIRI** - “Remittances, Migration and Social Development: A Review of Evidence and Emerging Issues in Western Balkan”- University of New York Tirana
- › **Lirim KRASNIQI** - “Towards a pluralist view on the effects of emigration”- Germin, Pristina
- › **Lorina MISKU, Sara MACOLLI** - “The Economic impact of Albania emigration” - Prime Minister’s Office



› **Sanja CUKUT Krilić, Simona Zavrtnik** - "COVID-19 and migration in the Western Balkans: the case of people on the move and migrant workers in agriculture" - ZRC SAZU; University of Ljubljana

› Discussions, remarks, conclusions

10:30 - 10:50 Coffee Break

10:50 – 12:30 Fourth Panel/Fifth Panel (two separate conference rooms)

FOURTH PANEL (Dea Room)

DIASPORA AND DEVELOPMENT

Moderated by: Mr. Lirim KRASNIQI, GERMIN

› **Mr. Ilir GEDESHI, Mr. Russell KING** – Albanian Scientific Diaspora: The Case of Kosovo, CESS; SCMR, University of Sussex

› **Ms. Dhurata PROKSHI** - Migration, Development and Diaspora in the Western Balkans"- University Ss. Cyril Methodius, Skopje

› **Ms. Joniada BARJABA** - Diaspora makes a difference in COVID-19 recovery - University of Sussex

› **Ms. Kaltrina AJETI** - Migration and Diaspora – are WB media inclusive enough? Institute for Media and Communication, Pristina

› Discussions, remarks, conclusions

FIFTH PANEL (Olimpia Room)

BRAIN DRAIN AND BRAIN GAIN

Moderated by: Ms. Ksenija VUKMIROVIC, WBF

› **Ms. Renis META** - Brain drain, a curse for the Western Balkans? The Youth Perspectives and the Future of the Balkans and Albania" - Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

› **Ms. Merita ZULFIU** - Academic Brain Drain: The Case of North Macedonia" -



SEEU, Tetovo

- › **Mr. Nenad JEVTOVIC** - Cost of youth emigration in Western Balkan countries” - Institute for Development and Innovation, Belgrade
- › Discussions, remarks, conclusions

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 Sixth Panel/Seventh Panel (two separate conference rooms)

SIXTH PANEL (Dea Room)

WESTERN BALKANS AS TRANSIT POINT

Moderated by: Ms. Bratislava TANASKOVIC, RYCO

- › **Ms. Teresa ALBANO** - Resilient and inclusive communities: a possible option for the Balkans?” - OSCE, Austria
- › **Mr. Ziyad AMRAHOV** - Migration to Europe through the WB”- Head of the Department of Historiography, Inst. of the History of Science, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
- › **Mr. Constantin PLAMEDEALA** – The comparison between Western Balkans and Eastern Europe as transit zones of illegal migration to European Union” - University of Debrecen
- › **Ms. Fiora CINGA** - Transit migration in the Western Balkans” - Intern, Academy of Science, Tirana
- › Discussions, remarks, conclusions

Seventh Panel (Olimpia Room)

OTHER RELATED ISSUES

- › **Ms. Elona Dhembo** – Migration and social protection: the telling narratives of the Albanian migrants – University of Tirana
- › **Ms. Armela XHAHO, Mr. Ajay BAILEY, Ms. Erka CARO** – Work and Moral



Economy among Albanian domestic workers in Greece - University of Groningen; University of Utrecht; University of Tirana

› **Mr. Denis MEMA, Ms. Sulltana ALIAJ** – Assessing migrant profile and migration traits in Albanian general population” - GIZ; Department of Psychology and Pedagogy, University of Tirana

› **Ms. Brunilda ZENELAGA** - “Transnational families in COVID-19 times. An exploration of Albanian case” - University of Tirana

› **Ms. Juventina NGJELA, Ms. Edvaldo BEGOTARAJ, Ms. Natalja QANA, Ms. Elpiniqi MERKURI** – Albanian emigration of the last two decades and psychological consequences | protection: the telling narratives of the Albanian migrants” – University of Tirana; University “Logos”; University “Luarasi”; Healthcare Centre

› **Ms. Ermira DANAJ** - women’s experiences of migration to Greece and Italy: a gender analysis”

› **Ms. Elira KARAJA** - Migration for Sustainable Development in the Western Balkans A vision of Regional Knowledge and Data Hub” – UNIBO; UN System.

› **Mr. Ervin PUPE, Mr. Denard VESHI** – Asylum seekers in the Western Balkans: National Level or “Mini-Schengen” Level?”- Supreme Court of the Republic of Albania; Beder University, Tirana

› **Ms. Ardita OSMANI** - “Reverse migration as a tool for home development: the case of People’s Republic of China” - Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

› **Mr. Gjergji KAJANA** - The organization of Albanian cultural centres in Italy” -

Journalist, OBC Transeuropa
