

European Fund for the Balkans

REPORT
2007-2010

European Fund for the Balkans
Bringing the Western Balkans closer to the European Union

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INTRODUCTION

EFB PORTRAIT

BACKGROUND

The European Fund for the Balkans was established in June 2007 as a multi-year joint initiative of European foundations including Robert Bosch Stiftung, King Baudouin Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo and ERSTE Foundation.

The Fund is designed to undertake and support initiatives aimed at **bringing the Western Balkans closer to the European Union** through grant-making and operational programmes and as such is focused on individuals and organisations from the Western Balkans region.

As a direct follow-up to the International Commission on the Balkans (2004-2006), the Fund embodies the “*member-state building strategy*” which includes the *development of functioning state administrations* and *constituency-building* as main priorities.

OBJECTIVES

More specifically, the Fund’s objectives are:

- to encourage broader and stronger commitment to the European integration of the Western Balkan countries and societies;
- to strengthen the efforts undertaken by a range of stakeholders in this process also with a view to developing effective policies and practices in the region and in the EU and to support the process of member-state building as envisaged by the International Commission on the Balkans, in particular by building constituencies in the Southeast Europe societies who will be offered an opportunity to experience and learn about Europe.



MISSION:

**BRINGING THE WESTERN
BALKANS CLOSER TO THE
EUROPEAN UNION**

GRANTMAKING

The European Fund for the Balkans issues calls for proposals that seek to generate innovative and promising ideas from the people and organisations from the Western Balkans. Unsolicited proposals are not accepted. The Fund supports projects that are in line with its priority programme areas by issuing calls for proposals throughout the year.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

The venture is designed to engage not only European funders already active in the Balkans, but also public and private donors who have not worked in the region until now, or wish to leverage their own funding and increase its impact.

STRUCTURE

The Fund is managed under the authority of a Steering Committee, which is responsible for the strategic orientations of the Fund and oversees the work of the Secretariat. The Steering Committee is the official decision-making body of the Fund. Each of the foundations constituting the Fund has one representative in the Steering Committee.

The Belgrade-based Secretariat, led by the Executive Director serves as the Fund's headquarters.

The Fund is currently hosted by the **Network of European Foundations - NEF** (Brussels) which provides legal and administrative assistance.

THE FUND - SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat of the European Fund for the Balkans is based in Belgrade, from where it covers the Fund's activities throughout the Western Balkans region.

It is run by a small but experienced group of people, who actively seek out and incorporate expertise from a wide variety of sources, as well as experts to add to their numbers.

EUROPEAN FUND FOR THE BALKANS 3 YEARS AFTER...

European Fund for the Balkans
Bringing the Western Balkans closer to the European Union

**HEDVIG MORVAI-HORVAT**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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“Our wish is to help the Balkan countries get closer to Brussels, but also to encourage Brussels to get closer to the Balkans”

The European Fund for the Balkans was established by four private European foundations as a follow-up to the work of the International Commission on the Balkans (2004 – 2006). This way, the Fund represents putting into practice the recommendations of the Commission to accelerate the process of the Balkan EU membership so as to guarantee political and economic stability in Europe. Being shaped by the Commission’s heritage the Fund has a clear framework and a serious and influential backing. The Fund aims to bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU through programmes and activities focused on ‘member-state building’ and pro-European constituency building. This means strengthening state institutions in order for them to carry out necessary reforms, supporting independent policy-making by think-tanks and others, and giving young people opportunities to experience and learn about Europe.

The four founding partners, the *Robert Bosch Stiftung*, the *King Baudouin Foundation*, the *Compagnia di San Paolo* and the *Erste Stiftung* have set a pattern in promoting the responsibility of European funders in supporting and developing stability in the region of the Western Balkans. The European Fund for the Balkans is a testimony to the power of collaboration, demonstrating what foundations can do when they come and act together.

Operating in all Western Balkans countries by implementing a unique programme strategy makes the Fund a regional actor and partner to different stakeholders and an active promoter of cross-border and regional co-operation. Until this date, a valuable network of different governmental and non-governmental organisations, institutions, groups, initiatives, and individuals got engaged with the Fund and its activities, from the region and beyond.

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The activities carried out during the first 3 years followed a step-by-step approach articulated along four main programme areas: Envisioning Europe, Practicing Europe, Experiencing Europe and Supporting Policy Development. Additional activities have been developed around flagship annual programmes, creating thereby links and synergies between the different programme strands.

This report is not an attempt for summarising the achieved results of the Fund. It is a colourful presentation of the main images and impressions from the past 3 fruitful years of EFB. It shows people who are in the heart of the Fund’s existence; moments that were special; words which give us feedback and make us even more motivated for meeting the future challenges.

Building up an initiative, as ambitious as the European Fund for the Balkans, requires a special set of conditions and resources. These prerequisites, some of them mentioned above, made the Fund possible and existent. However, without key individuals involved and their immense personal commitment, it would have never become what it is today. This is a great opportunity for me to express my gratitude to all of them. They are colleagues, friends, supporters whose work and investment made this publication lively and rich.

Enjoy your reading just as much as we had fun and joy in creating it!

Belgrade, December 2010

THE FUND - STEERING COMMITTEE

The Fund is managed as a separate entity under the authority of a Steering Committee (SC) that oversees the project as a whole. Each foundation appoints one representative and a substitute for the SC. The latter draws the strategic orientations of the Fund and oversees the work of an Executive Secretariat administering the Fund's activities.

The Steering Committee is operating based on a 12 month rotating Chair, appointed from the founding partners.

Steering Committee Chair:

SANDRA BREKA

Head of Berlin Office, Robert Bosch Stiftung

Steering Committee members:

NICOLO RUSSO PEREZ

Program Officer, International Relations and European Integration, Compagnia di San Paolo

MARZIA SICA

Program Officer, Welfare Policies, Compagnia di San Paolo

JOACHIM ROGALL

Head of Department, International Relations Central and Eastern Europe, Stuttgart Office, Robert Bosch Stiftung

GERRIT RAUWS

Director, King Baudouin Foundation

FABRICE DE KERCHOVE

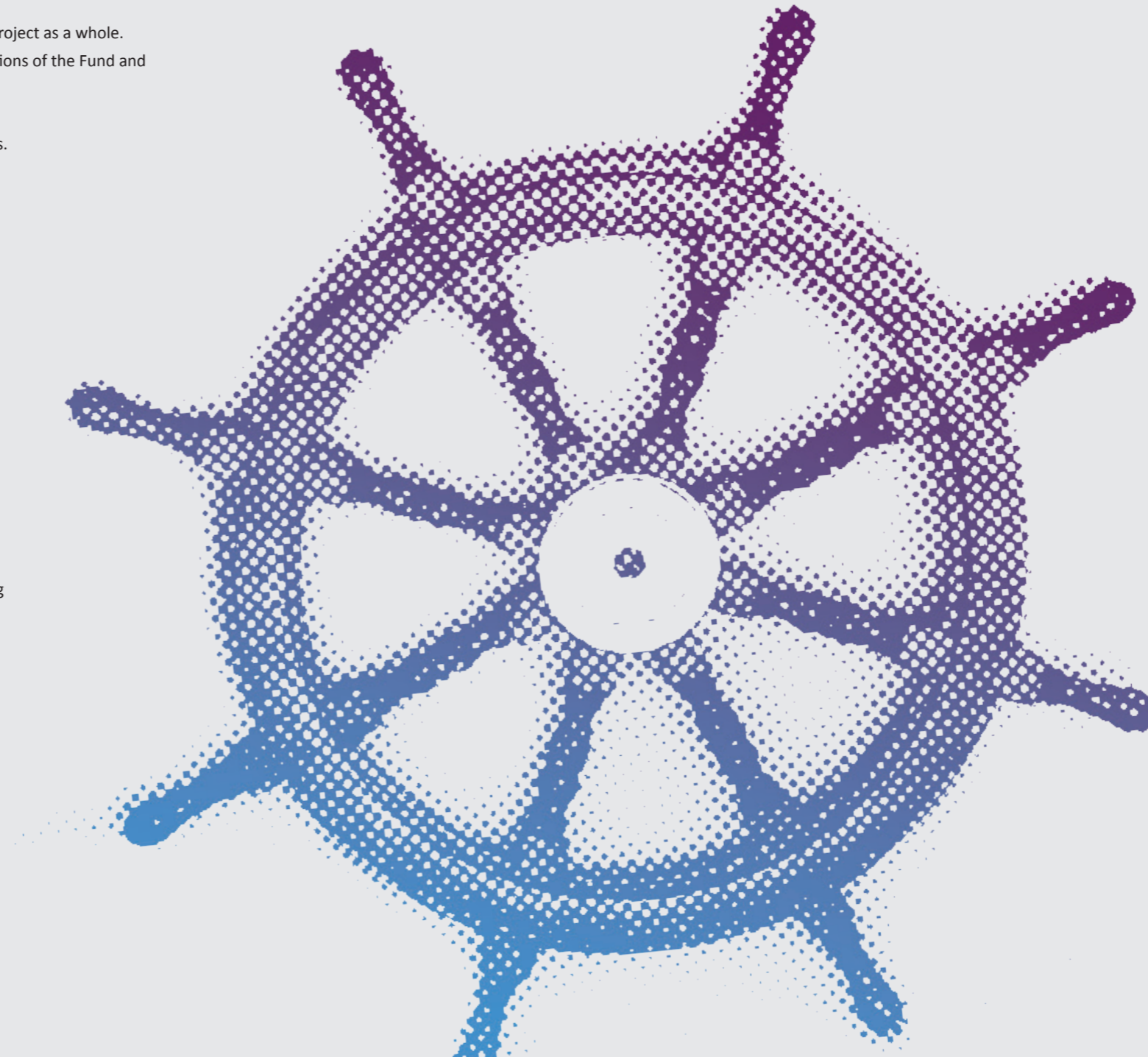
Project Manager, King Baudouin Foundation

KNUT NEUMAYER

Programme Director, ERSTE Stiftung

FRANZ KARL PRÜLLER

Programme Director, ERSTE Stiftung



THE FUND - STEERING COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN FUND FOR THE BALKANS 3 YEARS AFTER...



ERSTE Stiftung

**FRANZ KARL PRÜLLER**

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, ERSTE STIFTUNG

MEMBER OF THE EFB STEERING COMMITTEE

In only 3 years of operations, the European Fund for the Balkans has succeeded in establishing a strongly felt presence not only in the Western Balkan countries but also in the “capital” of the European Union, Brussels. It was able to do this due to a unique combination of local expertise and professionalism that allowed it to be quickly and securely anchored in the south-eastern European public as well as civil society establishment while its founding members connected the Fund to the “old” institutions of the EU and its most prestigious and influential representatives. We feel that succeeding in this two-pronged approach to “moving the countries of the Western Balkans closer to the European Union” constitutes the specific asset and value of the Fund: due to its composition as an initiative of four major European foundations and its rootedness, through its office and staff, in the region, it is able to combine the best of both worlds for the benefit of the countries concerned.

As ERSTE Foundation we are proud to be able to contribute to this project and are proud about its achievements after just 3 years of being active. The work of the Fund impacts immediately on a region that is of great importance not only for the economic interests of ERSTE Foundation but also for our philanthropic work. With the Fund we have a strong and competent partner to engage in the European and social development of the region, a development that will hopefully lead to greater European cohesion and increasing social capital for its societies.



Robert Bosch Stiftung

**SANDRA BREKA**

HEAD OF BERLIN OFFICE, ROBERT BOSCH STIFTUNG

MEMBER OF THE EFB STEERING COMMITTEE

“In 2005, the International Commission in the Balkans published its report “The Balkans in Europe’s Future”, advocating a comprehensive Member-state building strategy for the Western Balkans. The Commission not only challenged political decision-makers, but also European foundations to engage more actively and more prominently in the countries of the region with adequate funding strategies and activities. The European Fund for the Balkans was established as a response to this challenge, reaching out to the generations of potential leaders who are the future of the region and its hope for reconciliation. Within three years, the EFB developed an impressive array of operational and grant-making activities which allow youth, students, public servants and representatives of the think tank community among others to personally experience Europe. With this, the EFB supports those constituencies which will be the backbone in the process of bringing the Balkans closer to the European Union in the years to come. No theory can replace such personal and professional experience, in particular when the time is shared with others. Moreover, the participants in the EFB programs challenge people outside the region to change their perception of the Balkans.

We greatly look forward to continuing this successful cooperation of European foundations and see the EFB community grow over the next years with continued dynamism!”



THE FUND - STEERING COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN FUND FOR THE BALKANS 3 YEARS AFTER...

**NICOLO RUSSO PEREZ**

PROGRAM OFFICER, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, COMPAGNIA DI SAN PAOLO

MEMBER OF THE EFB STEERING COMMITTEE

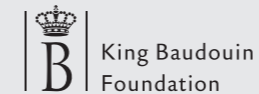
Compagnia di San Paolo is one of the largest independent foundations in Europe, and one of the main private funders of research in the fields of EU affairs and international relations. Over the past few years, *Compagnia* has raised its profile in these fields, signing strategic partnership agreements with the think tanks and institutions such as *Istituto Affari Internazionali*, the *European Policy Centre*, *German Marshall Fund of the United States* and *Notre Europe*: our overall goal is to foster a truly European debate on the main issues concerning the European Union, and to encourage the emergence of the European political space. At the same time, in 2004, *Compagnia* started a successful cooperation with *Riksbankens Jubileumsfond* in Stockholm and *VolkswagenStiftung* in Hanover for the Programme “European Foreign and Security Policy Studies”. Through the Programme, emerging researchers were given the opportunity to elaborate projects, write books and articles, thus contributing to our understanding of the still under-researched and under-theorized phenomenon of the European foreign policy.

It is against this background and as a part of deep *Compagnia's* commitment to supporting initiatives on the European integration process - crucial at the time when the EU faces an unprecedented economic crisis that calls for joint and daring European answers - that the *Compagnia* is consolidates historic initiatives of “regional” cooperation, the European Fund for the Balkans.

The EFB was set up with three other major European foundations - *Bosch Stiftung*, *King Baudoin Foundation* and *Erste Stiftung* - with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the administration of the Western Balkan countries, with a view to their integration in the EU.

The European Fund for the Balkans is focused on individuals and organisations from the Western Balkans region: as a direct follow-up to the International Commission on the Balkans (2004-2006), the Fund embodies the “*member-state building strategy*” which includes the *development of functioning state administrations* and *constituency-building* as main priorities. We are deeply convinced, in fact, that only strengthening the efforts undertaken by a range of stakeholders in this process, the key civil society actors such as the foundations can have a true impact and contribute to the development of effective policies in the region and in the EU.

EUROPEAN FUND FOR THE BALKANS 3 YEARS AFTER...

**FABRICE DE KERCHOVE**

PROJECT MANAGER, KING BAUDOIN FOUNDATION

MEMBER OF THE EFB STEERING COMMITTEE

After the “big bang” enlargement of 2004 to Central and Eastern Europe, European foundations found in the Balkans another region with a clear European perspective and unfinished business in regard to good governance, political stability and the rule of law. The first step in this direction was “The International Commission on the Balkans” which set as a priority the development of functioning state administrations and constituency-building. The European Fund for the Balkans has been perpetuating this unique approach since 2007. In June 2010, the four founding partners of the Fund renewed their commitment to the Fund for the next three years. This ambitious example of co-operation between private European foundations is granted a new mandate to continue building a broader and stronger support to the European integration of the Western Balkan countries, both in Brussels and in the region. This endeavour is very much in line with King Baudouin Foundation’s main ambition to bring the countries of this region closer to the European Union. In just three years, through its innovative leadership development programmes and policy-making initiatives, the Fund has been especially successful in building up the constituencies the Balkan societies need for their European future. We therefore look forward to the forthcoming new initiatives, fresh ideas and creative ways that will contribute to consolidate the outstanding results that have been achieved so far.

EFB TEAM



HEDVIG MORVAI-HORVAT
» EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



IGOR BANDOVIĆ
» PROGRAMME MANAGER



BILJANA MESHKOVSKA
» PROGRAMME MANAGER



BRANKA PANIĆ
» PROGRAMME ASSISTANT & EFB COMMUNITY COORDINATOR



NATAŠA SMILJANIĆ
» OFFICE MANAGER



EFB OFFICE OPPENING



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21 January 2008, Belgrade

EFB LAUNCH EVENT



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PUBLIC LAUNCH EVENT AND PANEL DISCUSSION "THE BALKANS IN EUROPE'S FUTURE"

18 June 2008, Sarajevo



**ERHARD BUSEK**

FORMER SPECIAL COORDINATOR OF THE STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE

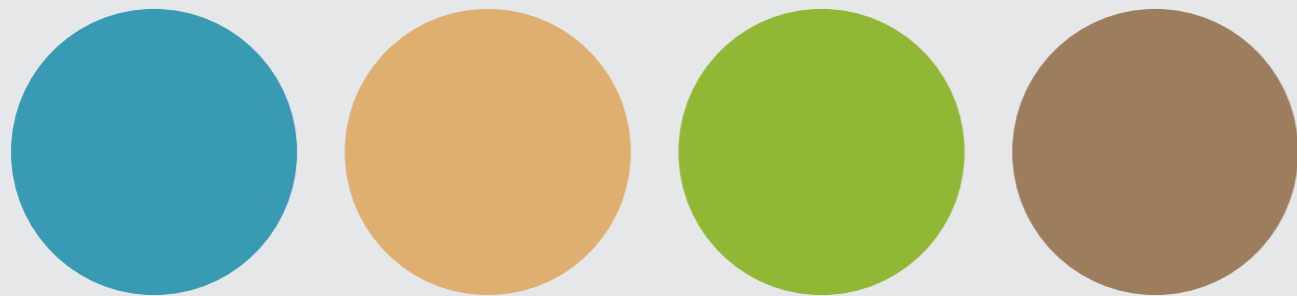
The job must go on

As a former Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe for seven years, I appreciate the work of the European Funds for the Balkans (EFB) very much.

It was an excellent idea, that four foundations joined their capacities in order to make their involvement in the Balkans more effective. It is of great importance that the EFB is based in the Balkans and is doing its work from the inside, with the assistance from many friends and partners. The crucial factor that makes the EFB work more effective is the fact that the decisions which are made are derived directly from the needs of the Balkans. I have had the opportunity to be involved in different EFB activities. So I very much appreciate what is done here for the improvement of the situation in the region. Also, it is extremely important that many activities are intended for the younger generation and implemented with the participation of the younger generation. Personally I am convinced that the integration of the Western Balkans in the EU plays a very important role for the future of the European Union. But this can't happen theoretically. It has to be done concretely and on the ground – and this is exactly what is being done by the EFB. All those working for, and with the EFB can be proud of the past three years. For the next three years I wish you all possible success!

”

PROGRAMME AREAS



PROGRAMME AREAS

The Fund's strategy is articulated along four main strands:

1. PRACTICING EUROPE

The European Fund for the Balkans initiates programmes that support the building and improving of the professional and administrative capacities and skills of young government officials from the Balkans in the EU integration process, with a view to:

- Building a new generation of politicians and civil servants with new visions and a regional outlook;
- Gaining practical experience in EU countries' federal, state or municipal government agencies;
- Creating links between administrations in the region through individual networks and joint initiatives.

INITIATIVE:

» FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS: SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNANCE

2. ENVISIONING EUROPE

The Fund provides support through programmes focused on individual and collaborative research and policy development projects as well as media outreach initiatives, with a view to:

- Supporting inclusive and evidence-based research and policy-making;
- Strengthening the think tank capacity in the Balkans or in the EU regarding Balkan issues;
- Bringing EU integration into public perception;
- Linking emerging policy institutes from the Balkans with EU-based think tanks;
- Stimulating regional exchanges and transfer of know-how within the wider region.

INITIATIVES:

» THINK AND LINK - REGIONAL POLICY PROGRAMME FOR THINK TANKS AND POLICY INSTITUTES

» FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR POLICY RESEARCHERS FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS REGION

3. EXPERIENCING EUROPE

With the aim of promoting European values in future generations, the Fund undertakes and supports initiatives allowing young generations in the Western Balkans to experience and learn about Europe, with a view to:

- Addressing opportunities that exist for young people to play an active role in contributing to the development of the Balkan region;
- Serving as catalisators for emerging positive change makers and leaders in the Balkan societies;
- Encouraging the spirit of co-operation by identifying new connecting issues for young generations in the region and the EU;
- Creating a network of 'young ambassadors' of the region.

INITIATIVE:

» SOUTHEAST EUROPE AND THE EU - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

4. SUPPORTING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Initiatives and partnerships aimed to contribute toward informed policy making in the Western Balkans, on the road to EU integration. Through Supporting Policy Development, the Fund boosts new policy ideas which can accelerate the reform process of the societies of the region, create synergies and multiply the impact through innovative approaches, promote increased public engagement and support decisive leadership models.

With the aim of contributing to informed policy making in the Western Balkans, all on the road toward EU integration, the Fund supports initiatives and partnerships with a view to:

- boosting new policy ideas
- accelerating the reform process in the societies of the region
- creating synergies and multiplying the impact through innovative approaches
- promoting increased public engagement
- supporting decisive leadership models

INITIATIVE:

» GALLUP BALKAN MONITOR

PRACTICING EUROPE

PRACTICING EUROPE [OVERVIEW]

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Although the EU has identified a number of areas which need to be worked on, it has been unified in making one particular recommendation to ALL of Western Balkan countries:
strengthening of administrative capacity, civil service reform.

The EFB addresses the need for strengthening of administrative capacity through its **Fellowship Programme for Young Government Officials**. In addition, the EFB considers enabling **increased regional cooperation** between public administration officials from different government institutions of Western Balkan countries as one of its priorities in the upcoming period.



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The Commission will continue to pay close attention to the existence of professional and functioning public administration. It will further encourage the exchange of best practices and the sharing of expertise between countries in the field of public administration reform.

Strategy Paper 2009



JELENA SIMINIATI

HEAD OF SECTION FOR COORDINATION OF LEGISLATION ADJUSTMENT

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

FELLOW 2008/2009

When I communicated about the “Practicing Europe” Programme to my superiors Ms Nataša Šarić (Head of EU Division) and Mr Kristian Turkalj, they were very enthusiastic about the prospective of having a national civil servant operating on daily basis in the EU member state Ministry of Justice.

And the German Federal Ministry of Justice was an excellent choice.

I established and maintained a very fruitful collaboration with most of the experts I have encountered while being placed in the Ministry, moreover, who are willing to assist in the EU legislative alignments Croatian judiciary is required to undertake currently. It would be an understatement to say that to me as to Head of Section for harmonisation of legislation adjustment this is useful. It is priceless.

”



KRISTIAN TURKALJ

DIRECTOR FOR EU AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

“

As Director for EU and international cooperation of Croatian Ministry of Justice I can verify that having a civil servant placed in an experienced EU member state Governmental institution was extremely valuable. The Republic of Croatia is finalising its accession negotiations with the EU and gradually aligning its legislative and organisational framework to Union-based standards. Hence, the timing for a Governmental professional of the EU acceding country having a flavour of a well-functioning mechanism was perfect. We have been able to learn more about German legislative activities in different areas of our interest as well as of their best legislative solutions. In that relation, the option to contact directly Federal Ministry of Justice’s (hereinafter: FMJ) experts aided us in the process of implementing our own Reform of Judiciary in the more efficient and swift manner.

Furthermore, encouraged by this experience, the Croatian Ministry of Justice expressed interest for developing cooperation with other EU countries by means of having its professionals engaged in short-term traineeships. This will assist the Ministry in further building of its own administrative capacities by allowing its professionals to be acquainted with daily challenges of the EU country administration, an aspect of utmost importance for the country at the doorstep of EU membership.

I also have to stress that I am very proud that Jelena, under the auspices of European Fund for the Balkans was invited to join a team of Mrs Kemper, (FMJ’s agent) before the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in the Preliminary ruling case.

*First programme launch:
September 2008 – “Fellowship
Programme for Young Government
Officials from the Western Balkans
– Supporting Excellence and
Leadership in Governance”*

Building a new generation of politicians and civil servants with new visions and a regional outlook

Gaining practical experience in EU countries’ federal, state or municipal government agencies

Creating links between administrations in the region through individual networks and joint initiatives and with administrations in EU countries through individual networks and joint initiatives

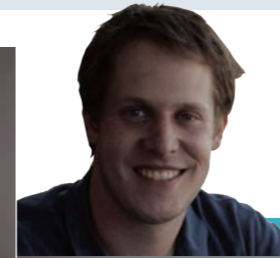
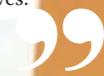
Within PRACTICING EUROPE, the EFB initiates and implements programmes that support enhancing the professional and administrative capacities of young government officials from the Western Balkans in the EU integration process, with a view to:




BOSILJKA VUKOVIĆ

HEAD OF THE OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MONTENEGRO
FELLOW 2008/2009

The three month fellowship in the Italian Ministry of Environment, Territory and Sea I was awarded by the European Fund for the Balkans was one of the most rewarding experiences of both my professional career and personal life. The balance between the individual on-the-job training in the selected host institutions and the three seminars organized for all fellows was conducive for practical learning on the one hand but also team building on the other. More than a year after the end of the program, the first generation of the EFB fellows remain truly a group with a strong common identity, which stems as much from our common experience as well as the shared belief in regional cooperation and our joint future and perspectives.


PAUL-GEORG FRIEDRICH
PROGRAM OFFICER, ROBERT BOSCH STIFTUNG

It has been inspiring for me to cooperate with the EFB staff on the Fellowship Programme for Young Government Officials from the Western Balkans since its inception. At the beginning of 2009 the first generation of highly qualified and highly motivated EFB Fellows started their Fellowships including seminars and stages in member countries of the European Union. It has been a pleasure to facilitate contacts with German ministries and public institutions for those who decided to do their stages in Germany. The Fellows receive invaluable insight into the governance system of the European Union, and they serve as ambassadors of their home countries. I am confident that they will be able to make a difference in the public institutions of their home countries based on their experience abroad. Moreover, they will be able to rely on a network of colleagues across the region.


KERSTIN ALTHERR AND DR. THOMAS GEBHARDT
POTSDAM CENTRE FOR POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

When the European Fund for the Balkans contacted us for the first time in late 2008 to check out the possibility of cooperation, we were very interested and excited about what this could bring. When it was decided that the Potsdam Center for Policy and Management would become the Fund's academic partner for the Fellowship Programme for Young Government Officials from the Western Balkans we felt privileged and proud. Now, after one and half a year of cooperation (and two Introductory Seminars for the Fellows to look back upon), we still feel honoured to be a partner in the Fund's network: To work with this enthusiastic, committed and highly professional team is a pleasure – just like being able to conduct a seminar for the Fund's Fellows with their dedication to the European Idea. Keep up the good work!



INITIATIVE: FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS: SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNANCE

20 civil servants are selected each year to spend a 6 month fellowship in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

OBJECTIVE:

Contribute to the development of effective and efficient state administrations in the region by offering a tailor made fellowship and training programme for highly qualified young professionals from the highest ranking state authorities of the countries of the Western Balkans.



learn a foreign language

become part of EFB Community

be ambassador of home country

Networking: links between administrations through individual contacts

Professional experience in an EU country

training on EU and international issues

leadership and management skills

training in respective field of expertise

Language Course

The official programme begins with the fellow attending an intensive language course of the host country where she/he will do the traineeship

Timeframe: 2-3 MONTHS

Introductory Seminar

Held in Berlin/Potsdam the Introductory Seminar gathers the fellows for a first meeting and provides insight into the current social and political - global, European and Balkan challenges and opportunities through lectures and meetings with senior decision makers and prominent academics. The seminar is complemented with team building activities.

Timeframe: 12 DAYS

Traineeship Phase I

Fellow begins his/her traineeship at host EU member state institution. Selection of host country and institution is done by the Fellow, while EFB secures the placement.

Timeframe: 1 MONTH

Intermediary Seminar

Held in Brussels the Intermediary Seminar gives the opportunity to meet high ranking officials from EU Institutions, NATO, and hear about the work of each entity, as well as their relation to the Western Balkans.

Timeframe: 4 DAYS

Traineeship Phase II

Fellow continues his/her traineeship at host EU member state institution.

Timeframe: 1 MONTH, 2 WEEKS

Final Seminar

Held each year at a different location in the Western Balkans, the Final Seminar invites Fellows for the last set of trainings in leadership, conflict resolution, communication and negotiations. The Final Seminar is also an opportunity for overall evaluation of the programme cycle as well as a ground for intensified networking and incorporation of the group within the EFB Community network.

Timeframe: 6 DAYS

The six-month Programme is composed of the following activities:

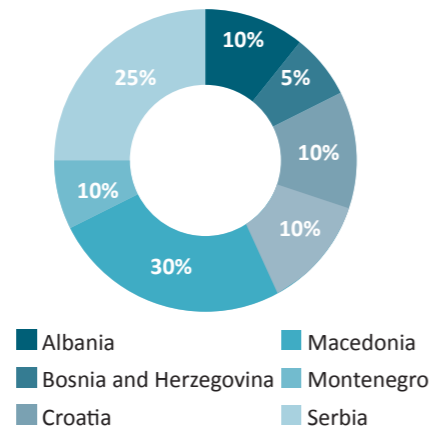


FELLOWSHIP 08.09

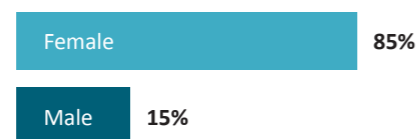
Call for applications: **Summer 2008**
 Programme duration: **March – June 2009**
 Applications received: **80**
 Candidates Interviewed: **40**
 Candidates selected: **20**

Host cities:
Vienna (Austria)
Brussels (Belgium)
Prague (Czech Republic)
Berlin, Dessau, Bonn, Karlsruhe (Germany)
Rome (Italy)
Warsaw (Poland) and Ljubljana (Slovenia)

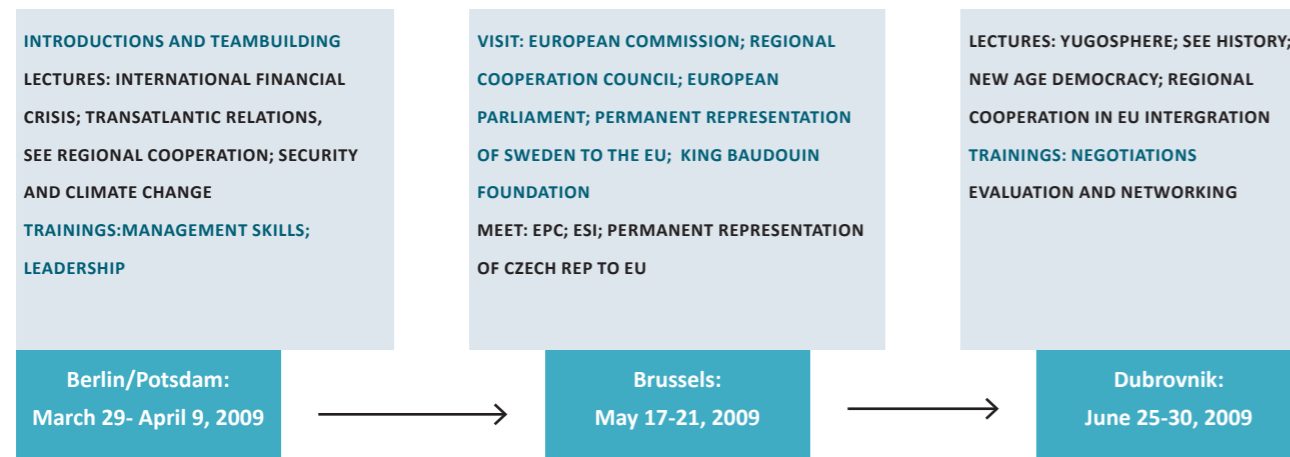
SELECTED FELLOWS:
BY HOME COUNTRIES



BY GENDER



2008/2009 INTRODUCTORY; INTERMEDIARY AND FINAL SEMINAR:



80 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

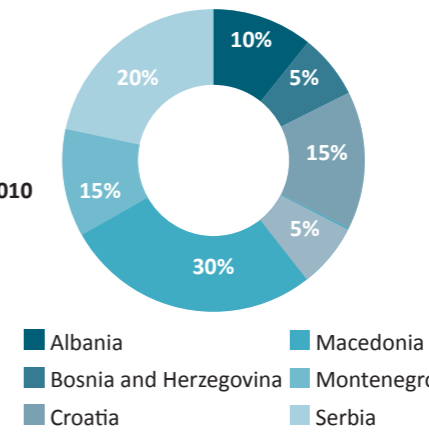
20 CANDIDATES SELECTED

FELLOWSHIP 09.10

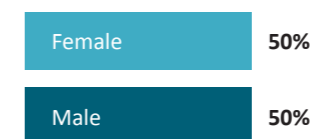
Call for applications: **Summer 2009**
 Programme duration: **April 2009 – July 2010**
 Applications received: **116**
 Candidates Interviewed: **47**
 Candidates selected: **20**

Host cities:
Vienna (Austria)
Berlin, Koln, Hamburg (Germany)
Utrecht, Hague (Holland)
Rome (Italy)
Lisbon, Angra do Heroismo (Portugal) and Ljubljana (Slovenia)

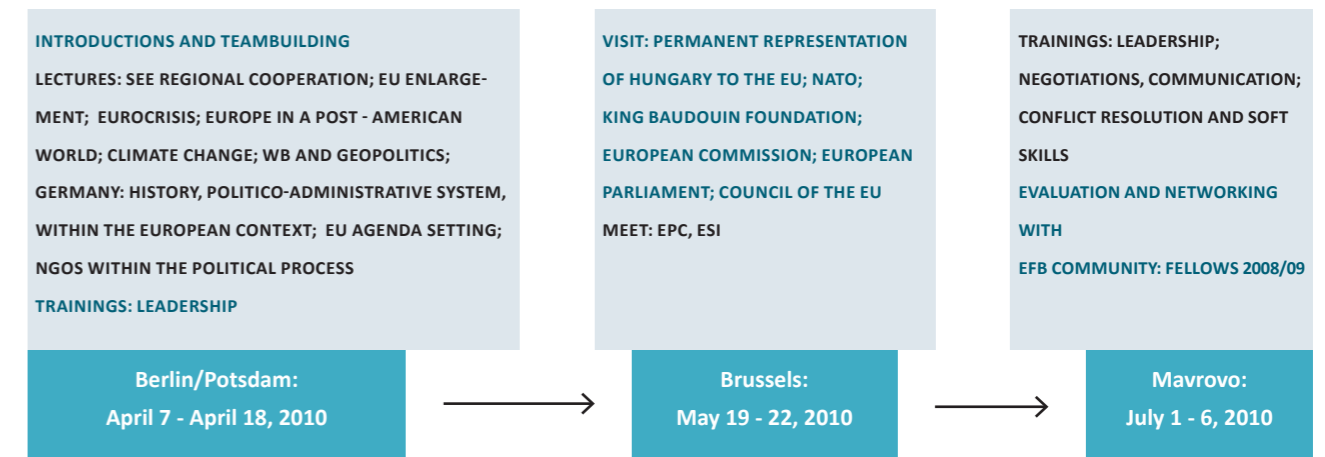
SELECTED FELLOWS:
BY HOME COUNTRIES



BY GENDER



2009/2010 INTRODUCTORY; INTERMEDIARY AND FINAL SEMINAR:



116 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

20 CANDIDATES SELECTED

ENVISIONING EUROPE



ENVISIONING EUROPE [OVERVIEW]

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The political elite in the Western Balkan countries should clearly comprehend what member-state building means in practice. Parties – journalists, civil society representatives, academics, interest groups – that shape policy debates have a responsibility to constructively contribute to meeting these challenges.

A broad and shared understanding of the “europeanisation” process is paramount for the overcoming competing and conflicting agendas which frequently generate difficulties in building and sustaining reform coalitions. Therefore, the countries of this region should develop strategies, plans and priorities which are followed up by genuine domestic debates, and exercise ownership for achieving sustainable institution building and actual transformation.

The ownership of the European integration process cannot be gained by the countries and societies of the Western Balkans without a clear vision or a realistic and result-oriented understanding of the challenges, costs and opportunities of the genuine EU member state building. It also requires the integrated efforts of all layers of society to adopt European values.



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INITIATIVES:

THINK AND LINK REGIONAL POLICY PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

12 think tanks from the Western Balkans are financially supported to perform research on the proposed topic, different for each programme year. In addition the programme provides capacity building in the form of seminars offered to the members of the chosen think tanks.

OBJECTIVE

The programme seeks to foster inclusive and evidence-based policy making in the Western Balkans by initiating and supporting individual and collaborative research projects on the chosen annual programme topic, embedded in the regional seminar programme cycle.



Capacity Building Seminar

A chance for peer learning, networking experience and practical trainings for the researchers of the selected organisations

Timeframe: 2 DAYS

Research Phase

Research is carried out by the selected organisations based on their initial proposals

Timeframe: 6 MONTHS

The eight month Programme is composed of the following activities:

Mentoring Phase

Provided by the independent policy experts, the offered assistance is of the crucial importance for the final design of the products and learning experience for the researchers involved in drafting the policy paper

Timeframe: 1 MONTH

Final Seminar

The Final Seminar serves as the dissemination platform for the results of the research undertaken by the selected organisation through a concrete presentation. It is also the meeting point for all the stakeholders involved in the open participatory policy debate with regards to the cost, benefits and challenges of the EU and the region

Timeframe: 2 DAYS



**ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN
THINK AND LINK PROGRAMME:**

2008 / 2009

Applications received: **26**

Supported policy oriented organizations from the region: **6**

- Analytica MACEDONIA
- AGENDA Institute ALBANIA
- SUNCE CROATIA
- Kosovo Stability Initiative KOSOVO
- Macedonian Green Centre MACEDONIA
- Belgrade Centre for Human Rights SERBIA

2009 / 2010

Applications received: **100**

Supported policy oriented organizations from the region: **12**

- Analytica MACEDONIA
- European Movement in Albania ALBANIA
- The Monitoring Centre - CEMI MONTENEGRO
- Institute Alternative MONTENEGRO
- GROUP 484 SERBIA
- Green Home MONTENEGRO
- Society Znanost.org CROATIA
- The Association Alumni of the
Centre for Interdisciplinary
Postgraduate Studies - ACIPS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- Centre for Peace Studies CROATIA
- Association for emancipation,
solidarity and equality
of women of R. Macedonia MACEDONIA
- Belgrade Centre for Security Policy SERBIA
- Kosovar Gender Studies Centre KOSOVO





JENS BASTIAN

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW,
ELIAMEP - HELLENIC FOUNDATION
FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY

About Think and Link Programme:

- It is an excellent and timely initiative because it brings together newcomers to the think tank community with experienced professionals and offers an arena for open-minded sharing of experiences.
- The element of providing financial assistance to the young think tanks (TT) in the region of Southeast Europe serves as the seed-money for start-ups in the corporate environment. Applying this objective and instruments to TTs is necessary and a good business idea.
- Make the young TTs work and get them out of their 'comfort zone'. They should be challenged among each other and through the established TTs in the wider region of Southeast Europe.
- The importance of the European Fund for the Balkans in organizing, hosting and financing such initiatives is an example of money well-spent. Without such assistance, which stretches to the Fund's administrative and policy-coordination expertise, such young initiatives would lack an umbrella organization across the region.
- The Fund should by all means available seek to establish regular follow-up of the TTs initiatives, efforts at sustainability and transparency of activities.



GORAN BULDIOSKI
DIRECTOR OF THE OSI THINK TANK FUND

Supporting independent think-tanks is not a shortcut to the immediate progress, but a strategic move for long-term improvement of policy processes in the Western Balkans. Though no cure-all, these independent centres of knowledge are helpful agents in promoting new ideas and monitoring implementation of the adopted reforms. With the European Union programs and national governments focused on service provision organizations and bilateral donors engaged in the government capacity building, empowering capacity for the independent policy analysis through think tanks is crucial. Private foundations and like-minded donors should step up their efforts instead of graduating this type of organizations from their support. After all, think tanks and donors share a joint goal in the region - influencing and mending the often broken down policy process.

The European Fund for the Balkans, although a "new kid on the block" has quickly found a particular niche among the "bigger donor-brothers". Two particular efforts stack out. First, Its "Think and Link - Regional Policy Program" has become a useful vehicle for supporting a niche policy research. Most of this policy research was carried out by a new generation of think tanks in the region. A school for talented young people – many returnees from respectable western universities – has created a new wave and provided unprecedented levels of modern and relevant policy research in the region.

Second, without the EFB support, the Gallup: Balkan Monitor would not have existed. The EFB enabled Gallup to provide the region's policy analysts, researchers, journalists and many more with excellent, comparable data each year. This data provided in user-friendly format online helps many people to identify some national trends, but also to compare those between the countries and across different years. In one word, the survey has become an essential tool in the hands of many people in the region. I wish the EFB many more anniversaries, a continued support for the current ideas and many new ideas that will help the insiders and outsiders alike to understand and change the region for the better.

INITIATIVES: FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR POLICY RESEARCHERS FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS

Up to 6 policy researchers from the Western Balkans are chosen to visit other policy research institutions and think – tanks in the EU and other countries of the Western Balkans.

OBJECTIVE

Contribute to the further capacity building and professional development of policy researchers from the region of the Western Balkans allowing them to build networks across Europe through paid visits to the other policy research institutions and think – tanks in the EU and other countries of the Western Balkans.

The six month Programme is composed
of the following activities:

Residential stay at Host Institution

Opportunity for the Fellow to engage in the ongoing policy research projects and develop concrete policy products, guided by senior policy analysts from the host institution

Timeframe: 3 MONTHS

Continuation of work at Home Institution

After returning to home institution, the Fellow continues to work on the final report from both the mentor and the Fellow, which will be presented to the EFB at the end of the Fellowship

Timeframe: 3 MONTHS



EXPERIENCING EUROPE

EXPERIENCING EUROPE [OVERVIEW]

In the Western Balkans social capital is dispersed and fragmented and all political ideas have been exhausted. The young generations in the countries of the region appear insufficiently involved in the reform process. These future leaders face very similar problems, across the region and it is given that they should search for the solutions and answers to some of the questions regarding the development of their societies - **TOGETHER**.

They see their countries' accession to the EU as the only way to fulfil their life expectations and enjoy the opportunities their peers in the EU member states have. Most young people in the Balkans perceive rule of law, economic progress, social security, and political stability as a chance for better life and future. The Balkan societies have, however, reformed their political and economic systems only partially. The system of corruption which compromises political elites and life in the countries which do not offer equal opportunities to all have made the young, the most progressive parts of the society, the advocates of positive social values and Euro-enthusiasts, feel as outsiders in their own homes, as marginalised social groups deprived of political power and influence on the society.

Bearing all of the above in mind, the EFB has identified the continuation of the **Leadership Development Programme**, aiming at gathering and empowering young leaders, and thus addressing some of the issues identified above, as one of its priorities.



Addressing opportunities that exist for young people, giving them an active role in contributing to the development of the Balkan region

Serving as catalysts for the emerging positive change-makers and leaders in Balkan societies

Encouraging the spirit of co-operation by identifying new connecting issues for young generations in the region and the EU

Creating a network of 'young ambassadors' of the region

Within EXPERIENCING EUROPE, the Fund undertakes and supports initiatives allowing young people in the Western Balkans to experience and learn about Europe, with a view to:

Young people in Balkan states are the most consistent advocates of the "Europeanisation" of the Balkans.



INITIATIVES:

LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

LDP

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The Leadership Development Programme was launched in 2006/2007 by the College of Europe and the TRANSFUSE Association. The European Fund for the Balkans began financing the programme in 2008 and since 2009 is organising it jointly with the College of Europe and the TRANSFUSE Association.

30 graduate students from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey are selected each year to take part in the 8 month long 'Southeast Europe and the EU – Leadership Development Programme'. A limited number of participants are selected from other European countries. The LDP is led by an Academic Dean who guides the participants through the different elements of the program.



JUDY BATT
ACADEMIC DEAN

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

I am proud to be associated with the LDP as Academic Dean. To my mind, it's one of the best investments made in recent years in the European future of the Western Balkans. The thirty young people are really of the highest calibre - articulate, energetic, full of idealism and integrity. They are more than enough to revive flagging hopes that the region's future can be much brighter than its recent past. The programme's key focus - building firm networks across borders among the rising generation of young leaders - is well designed to lay solid foundations for that brighter future.

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UROŠ ŽIVKOVIĆ
LDP PARTICIPANT 2006/2007
SERBIA

“Southeast Europe and the EU – Leadership Development Program” is one of the best programmes for young people from the region of Southeast Europe. Its true value is not only the fact that the LDP participants are able to hear and learn about the EU organization, procedures, and policies from the most eminent lecturers but more than anything it is its function of socialization. The LDP provides every student with the opportunity of sharing experiences and discussing the possibilities and difficulties of the European integration processes, in addition to which they can create their own networks and establish contacts that will help not only them personally but the regions from which they come. It is a possibility for them to raise their awareness of the need for cooperation and working on projects of common interest for the entire region. Another huge advantage of this project is the participation of students from other countries, primarily from the EU countries, who can contribute and set new perspectives in solving problems faced by the LDP participants while learning much from their colleagues from Southeast Europe.

The idea of LDP participants collaborating on common projects in all the major regional centres is a great starting point and an example of how the participants in a project can continue their cooperation even after the project is finished. This will require support of the LDP Alumni project as the main product of continued work on generations of students. LDP Alumni has the capacity of becoming a very important aspect of the entire project follow up and provides the possibility of continuing and expanding the excellent cooperation of all those who were involved in this project and kept the special LDP spirit and synergy alive.

It is with great pleasure that I can say how honoured I am to be part of the LDP network and to have had in the past five generations of LDP students so many excellent people to work with, many of whom have also become my friends.



SEE VISIONS
BEST PHOTOGRAPHY 2009
MURAT CAN KARAGOZ
“THE DOOR WAS LOCKED SO
MANY TIMES”



SEE VISIONS
BEST PHOTOGRAPHY 2010
LEDIA KONSTANDINI
“CONTRAPOSITION”



SELMA HADŽIĆ
LDP PARTICIPANT 2008/2009
SEE VISIONS COORDINATOR, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

“ The European Fund for the Balkans, through Leadership Development Program, primarily enabled participants to gain valuable knowledge and share ideas on European Union and the Balkans. Secondly, it provides a platform for young people to develop relevant social projects in their local communities. But, most importantly, the network and the projects continue due to the LDP Alumni Members Association.

The Program enabled my team peers from Albania, Kosovo, Romania and me, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, to create and run the online gallery SEE VISIONS collecting art pieces focusing on Balkans’ youth perception on the EU.

A certain degree of ambiguity is evident in the very description of the project: even though our region is firmly establishing itself under the name of Southeast Europe (replacing the highly ambivalent term ‘the Balkans’), we are nevertheless aware that ‘Europe’ is often identified with the EU, excluding our countries from that privileged club. Hence, SEE VISIONS symbolizes the fact that modern European values of openness and tolerance can be found within our own traditions.

The celebration of the SEE VISIONS’ first year was sensational, since we were able to continue the project including new LDP participants and involving more young people. SEE VISIONS’ goal for the next four years is to become a relevant online platform for independent cultural scene mostly created by the online community. We envision promoting creative people and youth initiatives from Southeast Europe and encouraging cultural contacts and collaborations between the Balkans and other European countries.

At the end, on behalf of the SEE VISIONS team, I would like to congratulate the European Fund for the Balkans for recognizing the value of Leadership Development Program and to wish even more success in their future activities.

Summer Academy*

Held in Bratislava, Vienna and the Vienna surroundings the Academy gathers LDP participants and provides a curriculum which includes topics related to the European Union, European Union and Southeast Europe relations, more general international and economic issues as well as practical training components, focussing on negotiations, project management and presentation skills.

Timeframe: 2 WEEKS

* The Summer Academy for the first 4 generations was held in Berlin and the Berlin surroundings

Group Activities

Participants are divided into 5 groups according to the topic of their interest. Groups work together toward implementing a project developed during the Summer Academy. A series of joint activities are organised as final events for each project throughout the Western Balkans.

Timeframe: 6 MONTHS

Spring Seminar

Held in Belgium - Brussels and Bruges, the Seminar gives participants the opportunity to meet and discuss the issues concerning Southeast Europe and its future with policy - makers from the EU and NATO, to visit the College of Europe as well as to attend a panel discussion with Brussels - based think tanks.

Timeframe: 5 DAYS

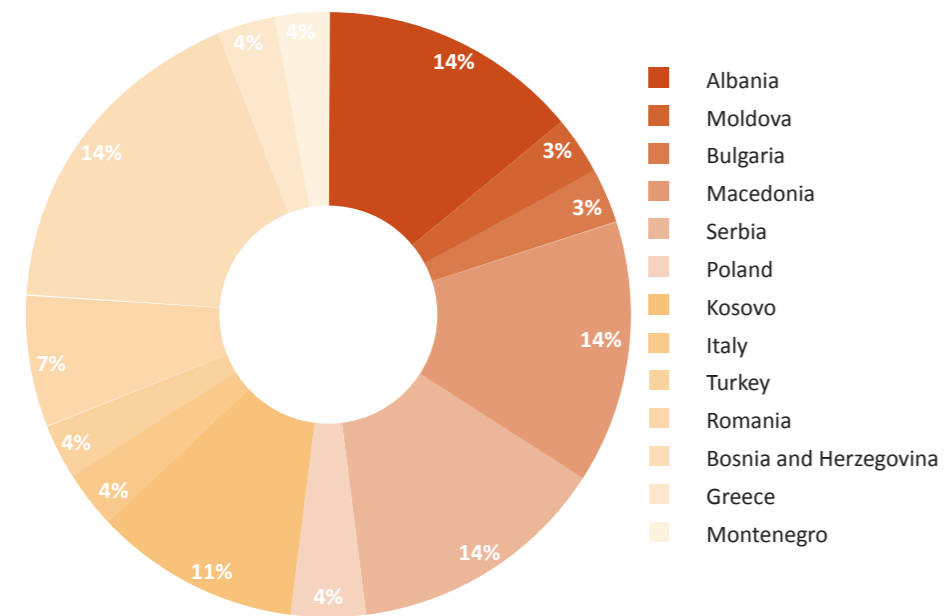
The eight-month Programme is composed of the following activities:



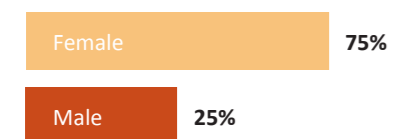
LDP 09.10

Call for applications: **Spring 2009**
 Programme duration: **Summer 2009 - Spring 2010**
 Applications received: **500**
 Candidates selected: **30**

SELECTED LDP PARTICIPANTS: BY HOME COUNTRIES

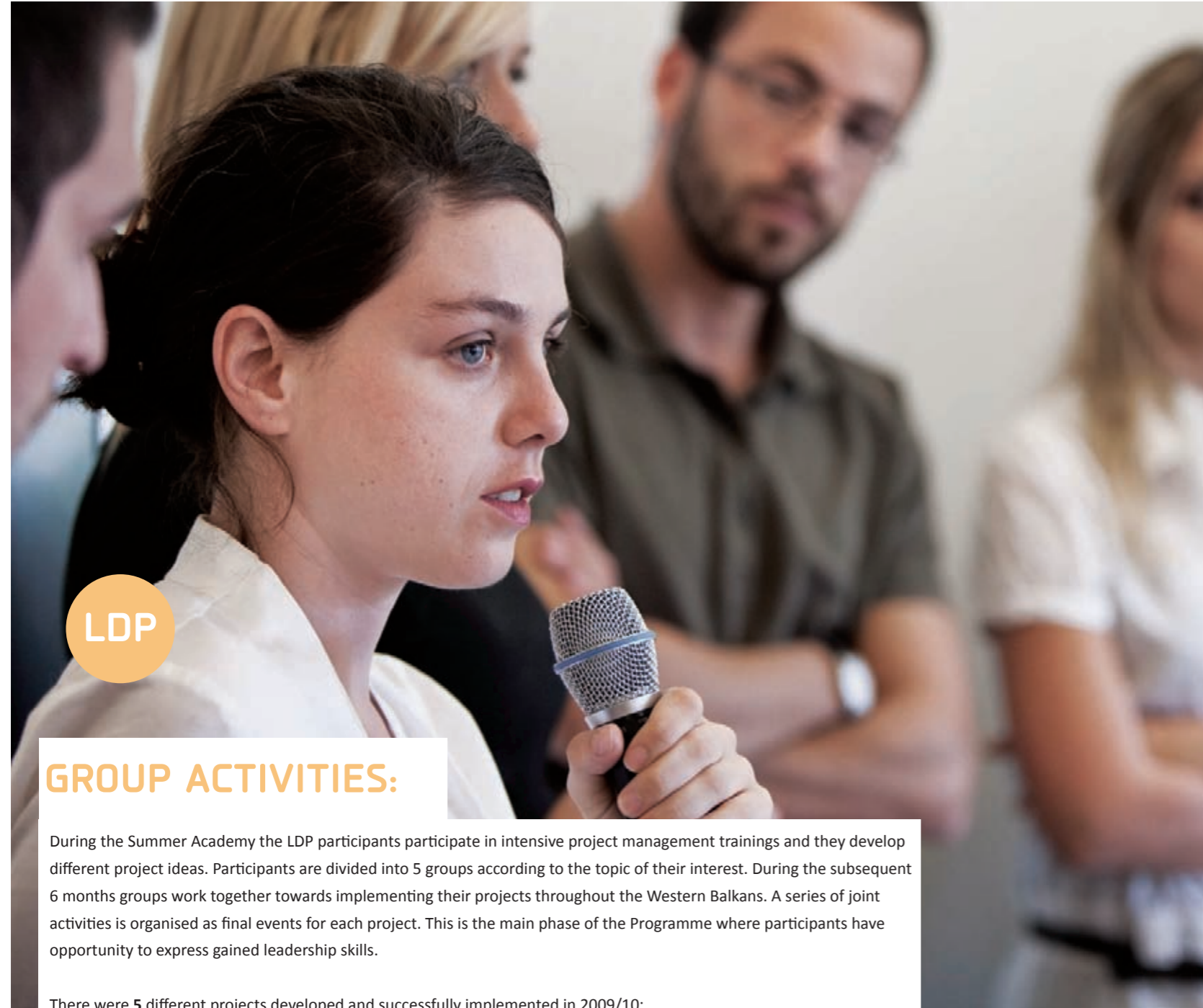


BY GENDER



500 APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED

30 CANDIDATES
SELECTED



LDP

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

During the Summer Academy the LDP participants participate in intensive project management trainings and they develop different project ideas. Participants are divided into 5 groups according to the topic of their interest. During the subsequent 6 months groups work together towards implementing their projects throughout the Western Balkans. A series of joint activities is organised as final events for each project. This is the main phase of the Programme where participants have opportunity to express gained leadership skills.

There were 5 different projects developed and successfully implemented in 2009/10:

1. THE CHALLENGES OF ACHIEVING EU CANDIDATE STATUS

(CREATED BY THE LDP PARTICIPANTS FROM ALBANIA, MACEDONIA, ROMANIA AND SERBIA)



2. EUROPEAN CULTURE AND VALUES – SEE VISIONS 2010: EXPRESS EUROPE THROUGH YOUR EYES

(CREATED BY THE LDP PARTICIPANTS FROM ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, MOLDOVA AND SERBIA)



3. HOW CAN THE EU DO BETTER IN BALKANS

(CREATED BY THE LDP PARTICIPANTS FROM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, ITALY AND KOSOVO)

4. NATIONAL IDENTITIES, MINORITY RIGHTS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: "EU – UMBRELLA OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES"

(CREATED BY THE LDP PARTICIPANTS FROM ALBANIA, KOSOVO, MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO)



5. REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SEE "BALKANS BEYOND BORDERS"

(CREATED BY THE LDP PARTICIPANTS FROM GREECE, MACEDONIA, POLAND, ROMANIA AND SERBIA)

**ENKELEDA SUTI**

LDP PARTICIPANT 2009/2010

ALBANIA

LDP – A life changing experience!

My name is Enkeleda Suti, I am from Albania and I was a participant of the “Southeast Europe and the EU – Leadership Development Programme”, IV Edition, 2009-2010. My experience with this programme has been absolutely a life changing experience. I am very delighted and appreciative to have had the learning opportunity to be an LDP fellow. This academic programme has directly helped me to acquire broad professional knowledge on the EU and its relations to the Southeast Europe; how Europe is changing politically, economically and socially; the challenges it faces nowadays; and the EU’s current context as a common vision and reality. Through its distinctive and inclusive approach of working in intercultural teams, being encouraged to ‘think outside the box’ while delivering concrete projects in the region, it has substantially contributed to enhancing and strengthening of my interpersonal, organizational, leadership and analytical skills, by stimulating the use of innovative and creative ways. With experiencing Europe ‘on the spot and now’ together with 30 talented young leaders from Southeast Europe and the EU, exchanging views and different experiences with a large pool of politicians, professors and experts within the programme, the LDP has been a process of professional and personal improvement and building of my strengths. Everything I have learnt from the programme will absolutely serve as an asset and resource for my future work in my country and in the region. And yes – the LDP really makes a difference!

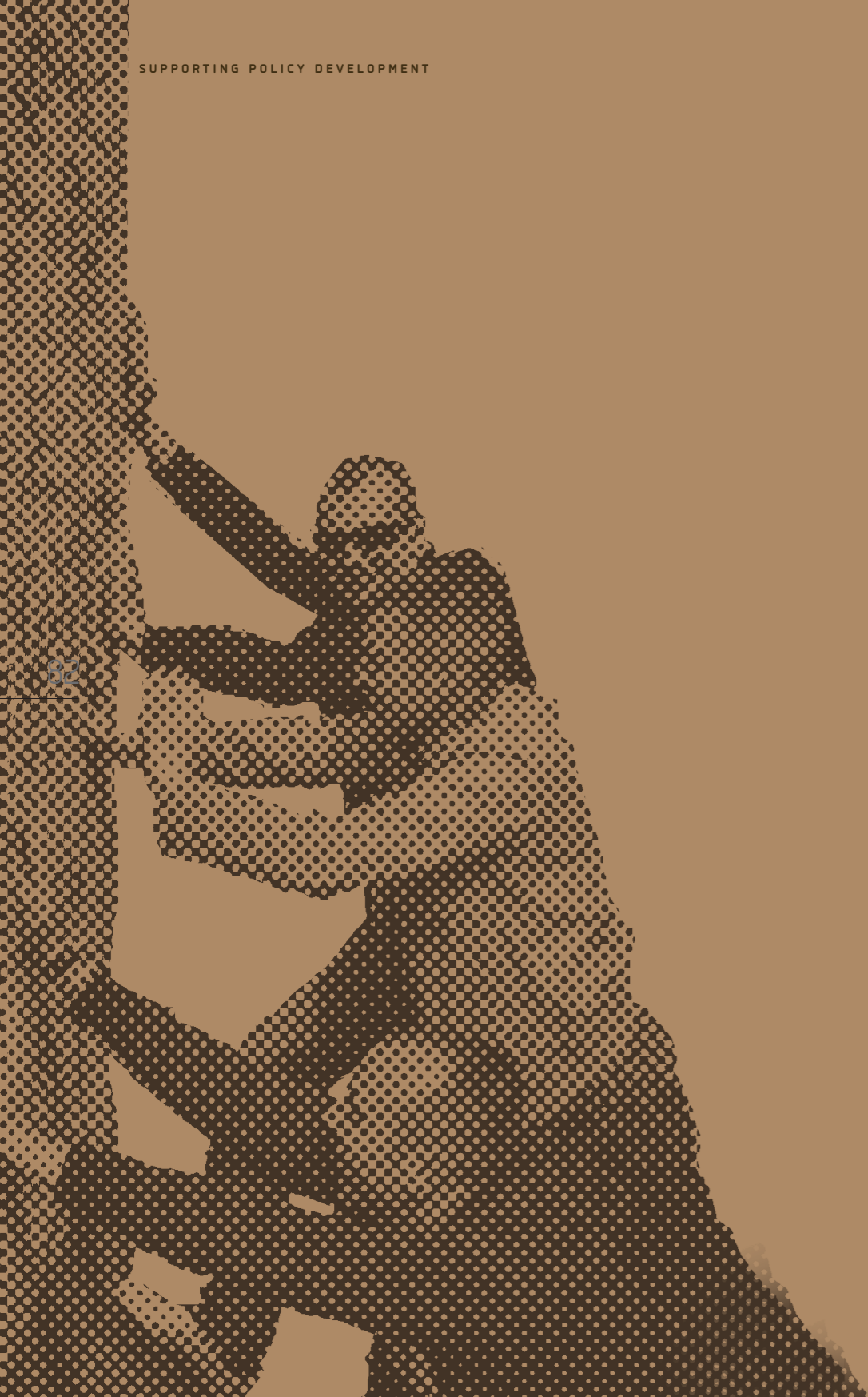
**BALKANS BEYOND BORDERS TEAM**

“The EFB presence in the region helps change the status of the Balkan region. We strongly believe that the EFB could lead the countries of the region to the path of the European Union. We need you there!

We would like once more to thank you for your support towards “Balkans Beyond Borders” because we could not manage to finish this difficult project without your crucial support. We would like the “Balkans beyond Borders” Initiative to grow up in parallel with the European Fund for the Balkans.

The EFB gave us a vision and showed us how important the cooperation is. The EFB gave us the opportunity to meet new interesting people and to make friends. The EFB taught us how cooperation works, what professionalism means and how a well organized team can succeed its goals. The EFB team is full of energy and positive thinking, open minded and with Vision. Your hard work is obvious!

SUPPORTING POLICY DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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THE SUMMARY

Initiatives and partnerships aimed to contribute toward informed policy making in the Western Balkans, on the road to EU integration. Through Supporting Policy Development, the Fund boosts new policy ideas which can accelerate the reform process of the societies of the region, create synergies and multiply the impact through innovative approaches, promote increased public engagement and support decisive leadership models.



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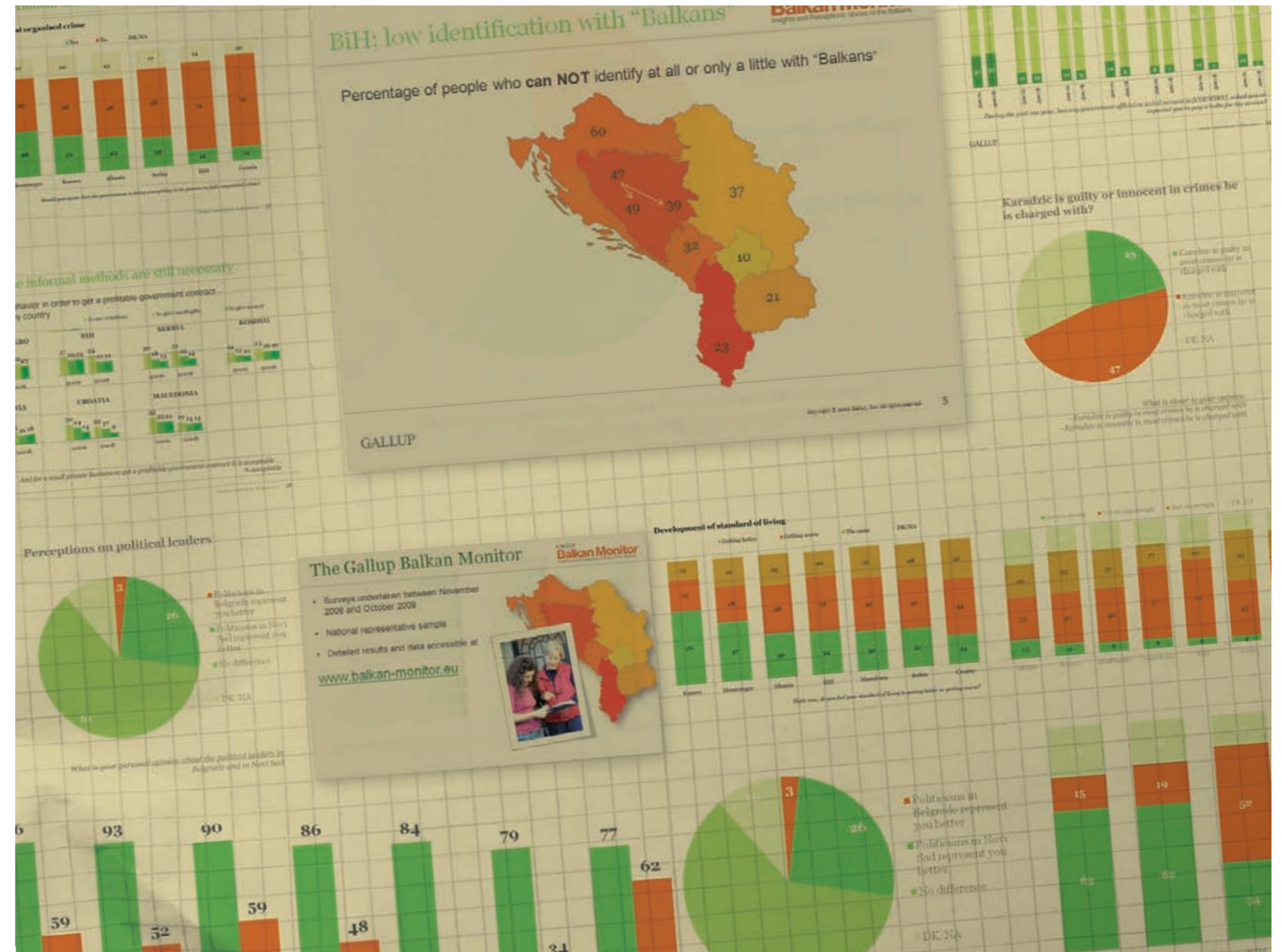
INITIATIVES: GALLUP BALKAN MONITOR

GALLUP **Balkan Monitor** Insights and Perceptions: Voices of the Balkans

The European Fund for the Balkans formed a partnership with Gallup Europe for launching the “Gallup Balkan Monitor”, which aims to provide all-encompassing data on people’s perceptions in the Western Balkan region, creating thereby a one-stop shop that delivers strategic insights based on evidence-based social research in the region. Covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, the Gallup Balkan Monitor asks more than 100 general and country-specific questions and explores a series of key issues including: social & economic conditions, employment prospects, business conditions, attitudes and perceptions about the EU and international community, good governance, corruption, crime & safety, political activity in the region, ethnic & cultural identities and perceptions of other ethnic groups, religion, well-being & life satisfaction, migratory patterns and the future: outlook and aspiration. The research is conducted annually, thereby providing an up-to-date assessment on the socioeconomic, sociopolitical, and multicultural dimensions of the Balkan region.

WWW.BALKAN-MONITOR.EU

Balkan-Monitor.eu provides news and views about the Western Balkans. It’s the home of the Gallup Balkan Monitor survey that continually monitors the views of the Balkan residents: from their living standards, happiness and attitudes towards the EU, to their employment opportunities, feelings about living abroad and the performance of their governments. This is a one-stop-shop for anyone requiring strategic insights into the Balkans.



GBM ROAD SHOW

In order to present and widely acknowledge the results of the Gallup Balkan Monitor, the EFB in cooperation with Gallup Europe organizes the series of the Gallup Balkan Monitor presentations and the public discussions in the capitals of the Western Balkan countries, where the results are presented and discussed with the leading analysts, journalists, government officials, academics, representatives of the CSO and think tanks from the region. The results will serve as a basis for the discussions on the future of the Balkans, its European aspirations and the potential for “attitude change” and europeanization of the societies in the region.

7 events are organized in the capitals of the Western Balkan countries every year. The roadshow events are accompanied by the campaigns with the most interesting results in each country where the roadshow event takes place.

The discussions are organized in Zagreb, Belgrade, Sarajevo, Skopje, Podgorica, Pristina and Tirana.

The results of the first wave of the survey were presented in November 2008 and thereafter distributed all throughout the region, at the policy discussions held in every Western Balkan capital. The second survey of the Gallup Balkan Monitor was presented in November 2009 and was subsequently distributed throughout the region, December 2009 – March 2010. A new wave of the survey is on its way for 2010.



ROBERT MANCHIN
CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
GALLUP EUROPE

I ran the first Gallup survey in what is now called the Western Balkans in 1989 and have been monitoring changes in this dynamic and multi-faceted region ever since. Given the radical, too often violent transformations the region went through after my first assignments there I regretted that there was no continuous large-scale survey reflecting the opinions and emotions of the Western Balkan people. It is Gallup's mission to “let people be heard” – in the case of the Balkans giving the populations a voice is a vital step for understanding of this part of Europe, for self-reflection and, finally, for being able to communicate about possible future directions as well.

In the European Fund for the Balkans, founded in 2008, Gallup then met an ideal partner for creating a unique information source based on sound and comparative measurement of social changes in the Balkans, accessible to all the stakeholders. The EFB had the necessary ambition and enthusiasm to partner with us in a survey that has become the Gallup Balkan Monitor. Together, the EFB and Gallup have given a voice to a whole region, and have tirelessly transported the region's people's message in many reports, presentations, panel discussions and meetings with decision-makers, in the Western Balkans and beyond.

The inexhaustible energy of the Fund's team has been visible in all its endeavours so far, for example in numerous training and networking programmes for high potentials from the Balkans. Their participants have already become themselves promoters and actors of the EFB's great project – a mutual rapprochement of the Western Balkans and the EU.

I can only congratulate the Fund for the impressive impact it has had, the change it has fostered in this brief time. We definitely look forward to further successful cooperation in “letting the people of the Balkans be heard”

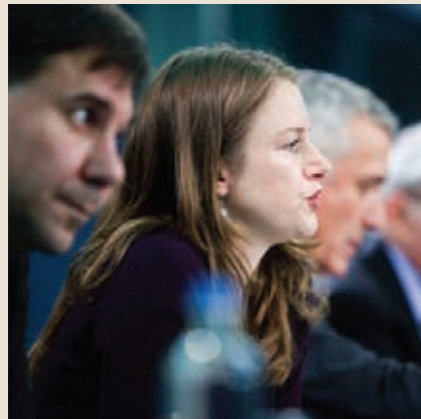


PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS – 2008

“VOICES OF THE BALKANS: BETWEEN HOPE AND DISENCHANTMENT”

November 17, Brussels

- A stratified random sample of 1000 in each country
- Fieldwork September-October
- Oversampling regions
- Face to face methodology
- Comparative questions



PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS – 2009

“IN EUROPE WE TRUST? PUBLIC OPINION IN THE BALKANS”

ROADSHOW 2008-2009

Belgrade, December 22, 2008

“Serbia: Awaiting for a Better Life”



Panellists: **SRDJAN MAJSTOROVIĆ**, Deputy Director, The EU Integration Office

MILAN NIKOLIĆ, Analyst

JELICA MINIĆ, Head of the RCC Expert Pool

Moderator: **HEDVIG MORVAI HORVAT**, Executive Director, European Fund for the Balkans

Zagreb, February 6, 2009

“Croatia: Tired of EU Reforms?”



Panellists: **ŽARKO PUHOVSKI**, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb

VESNA PUSIĆ, Chairman, The National Committee for Monitoring Accession Negotiations, The Croatian Parliament

DAVOR BOŽINOVIĆ, State Secretary for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Integration

Moderator: **ZRINKA VRABEC MOJZEŠ**, Journalist

Skopje, February 17, 2009

“Macedonia: Between hope and reality“



Panellists: **VLADIMIR MISEV**, Executive Director, Institute for Democracy
JETON SHASIVARI, Professor, CEE University, Tetovo
GORDAN GEORGIEV, Forum CSRD
ANDRZEJ PYRKA, Gallup Brussels
 Moderator: **BORJAN JOVANOVSKI**, Journalist

Tirana , February 25, 2009

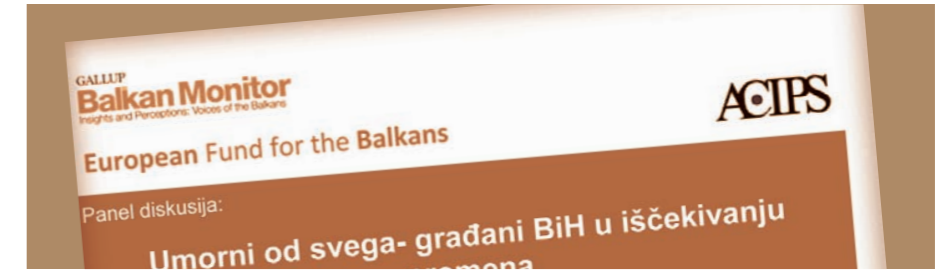
“Albania: From NATO to EU“



Panellists: **REMZI LANI**, Executive Director, Albania Media Institute
PIRO MISHA, Executive Director, Institute for Dialog and Communication
ROBERT MANCIN, Director, Gallup Brussels
 Moderator: **YILI CABIRI**, Advisory Board Member, European Fund for the Balkans

Sarajevo, March 13, 2009

“Tired of it all – B&H’s citizens are desperate for change“



Panellists: **ZDRAVKO GREBO**, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo
NEVEN ANDJELIĆ, Research Associate, University College London
ZEKERIJAH SMAJIĆ, Publicist
NEDELJKO MASLEŠA, Assistant Director, Directorate for European Integration, Office of the Council of Ministers' of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Moderator: **ADNAN RODNIĆ**, Journalist, TV Hajat

Podgorica, March 23, 2009

“Montenegro – The Country of Opportunity“



Panellists: **GORDANA DJUROVIĆ**, Vice - President, Government of Montenegro Institute “Alternativa“
ZLATKO VUJOVIĆ, President, Centre for Monitoring
MILOŠ BEŠIĆ, Analyst, CEDEM
NEDJELJKO RUDOVIĆ, Editor, newspaper “Vijesti“
 Moderator: **MOMČILO RADULOVIĆ**, General Secretary, European Movement in Montenegro

Pristina, March 24, 2009

“Kosovo: Living between high expectations and grey reality”



Panellists: **VALDETE IDRIZI**, Director, Community Building Mitrovica
YLLI HOXHA, Director, Foreign Policy Club
ILIRIANA KAÇANIKU, European Integration Program Coordinator, Kosovo Open Society Foundation
ROBERT MANCIN, Director, Gallup Brussels

Moderator: **BESA LUZHA**, Programme Coordinator, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Pristina

ROADSHOW 2009-2010

Belgrade, December 1, 2009

“Visa free travel throughout the EU – from a Balkan ‘ghetto’ to a speedy integration”



Panellists: **MILICA DELEVIĆ**, Director, The EU Integration Office of Serbia
IVAN VEJVODA, Director, Balkan Fund for Democracy
VLADIMIR TODORIĆ, Director, Law Forum, Belgrade

Moderator: **DANICA VUČINIĆ**, Journalist, B92

Zagreb, January 21, 2010

“Croatia and the EU: The closer to the goal, the less optimism”



Panellists: **NEVENA CRLIJENKO**, Executive Director, Academy for Political Development, Zagreb
DAVOR BOŽINOVIĆ, State Secretary for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in Croatia
JOSIP KREGAR, Professor, Faculty of Law, Zagreb

Moderator: **SRDJAN DVORNIK**, Publicist

Sarajevo, February 3, 2010

“Visa liberalization for Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Chance which should not be missed”



Panellists: **SANEL HUSKIĆ**, President, ACIPS, Sarajevo
NEDELJKO MASLEŠA, Assistant Director, Directorate for European Integration, Sarajevo
ALIDA VRAČIĆ, Director, think-tank Populari
VEHID ŠEHIĆ, President, Forum of Tuzla
FARUK BORIĆ, Editor, daily newspaper “Oslobodjenje”,

Moderator: **ADNAN RODNIĆ**, Journalist

Podgorica, February 18, 2010

“Montenegro and European Union: Government knows best?!”



Panelists: **Miodrag Miško Vuković**, Member, DPS Party, Podgorica
Daliborka Uljarević, Director, Centre for Civic Education, Podgorica
Zlatko Vujović, Director, Monitoring Centre - CEMI, Podgorica
Bosiljka Vuković, EFB Alumni Member, Advisor,
 Office for Sustainable Development in Montenegro

Moderator: **Bojana Stanišić**, Journalist, “TV Vijesti”

Tirana, February 19, 2010

“Albania’s perceptions and European Integration: Satisfied with life, satisfied with EU but happy to leave”



Panelists: **Selim Belortaja**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Thomas von Handel, Head of Political, Economic and Information
 Section, EU Delegation to Albania
Lutfi Dervishi, Executive Director, Transparency International Albania (TIA)
Gledis Gjipali, Executive Director, European Movement in Albania (EMA)

Moderator: **Rudina Xhunga**, Journalist, TOP Channel TV

Skopje, March 24, 2010

“At the eleventh hour for EU integration: What needs to be done and what needs to be done fast?”



Panelists: **HE Erwan Fouere**, EUSR and HoD of the European Commission
Ermira Mehmeti Devaja, MP
Mirjana Maleska, Institute for Sociological and Political Research
Guner Ismail, Chairman of the Board, Centre for strategic research
 and documentation “FORUM”, Skopje

Moderator: **Borjan Jovanovski**, Journalist

Prishtina, March 25, 2010

“The roots of a mismatch: High optimism vs. European Challenges”



Panelists: **Ilir Deda**, Executive Director, KIPRED
Shpend Ahmeti, Executive Director, GAP Institute
Avni Zogiani, Director, ÇOHU

Moderator: **Agron Bajrami**, Koha Ditore, Prishtina



OTHER EFB ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTED INITIATIVES

The European Fund for the Balkans supports projects that are in line with its priority programme areas throughout the year. All civil society organizations from the Western Balkans and the organisations which are dealing with the Western Balkan issues are eligible to apply.

Supported Initiatives in 2008:

SLOVENIAN EU PRESIDENCY 2008 – A CHANCE FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

“LJUBLJANA AGENDA FOR NEW PHASE OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION PROCESS”

// European Movement in Serbia

ALPBACH SUMMER SCHOOL ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION // Initiative Group Alpbach Belgrade

TOTAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2008: 2

Supported Initiatives in 2009:

ALPBACH SUMMER SCHOOL ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION // Initiative Group Alpbach Belgrade

THE EUROPEAN RAILS OF PEACE // Travels and Freedom Cultural Association

TOWARDS WHITE SCHENGEN LIST- ROAD MAPS MONITORING - WESTERN BALKAN REGIONAL RESPONSE // Group 484

SERB – CROAT RELATIONS – POLITICAL COOPERATION AND NATIONAL MINORITIES // Dialogue-Researcher's association - Centre for Promotion of Scientific Dialogue

IS A NEW GAS CRISIS APPROACHING? // European Movement in Serbia

THE TWELFTH SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY -“IMPACT OF GLOBAL CRISIS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE BALKANS” // Anglo-Serbian Society

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2009: 6

Supported Initiatives in 2010:

TEN YEARS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, TEN YEARS OF IGMAN INITIATIVE

// Centre for Regionalism

THE CULTURE LOBBY, AND ARCHIVE OF CULTURAL MEMORY // KIOSK

EU INTEGRATION SCHOOL // Kosovo Civil Society Foundation

ALPBACH SUMMER SCHOOL ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION // Initiative Group Alpbach Belgrade

LIVE FROM EUROPE – an inside Europe experience for 6 TV journalists from the Balkans SEETv

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2010: 5

SUPPORTED INDIVIDUALS

2009

In 2009 European Fund for the Balkans supported 5 individuals who took part in the Halki 2009 – Current and Emerging Security Challenges in Southeast Europe, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Middle East **“THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TRANSATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT MANAGEMENT”**.

2009 Halki International Seminar, focused on the role of the transatlantic institutions in helping local stakeholders address security challenges in the Middle East, the Black Sea and Southeast Europe. The Seminar was organized by the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) in cooperation with the Balkan Trust for Democracy and supported by the European Fund for the Balkans. The European Fund for the Balkans supported 5 participants from the Western Balkans:

BRAJOVIC DANILO, Second Secretary, Directorate for OSCE and CoE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Podgorica

HAJREDINI SHQIPE, Senior Legal Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Prishtina

IVANOVIC MILORAD, Deputy Editor in Chief, Blic Daily Newspaper, Belgrade

SEFERAJ KLODJAN, Executive Director, Albanian Socio-Economic Think-Tank (ASET); Consultant for Financial Management, World Bank Equity and Excellence in Education Programme, Ministry of Education and Science, Tirana

VUJAČIĆ NINA, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Independent Daily Newspaper Vijesti, Podgorica

2010

In 2010 the European Fund for the Balkans supported 4 persons who participated in the Summer School “FROM INDICATORS TO COUNTERFACTUALS”: Summer School on Quantitative Methods for Evaluating the Impact of Structural Funds.

The summer school was designed for both practicing evaluators and the staff in the managing authorities who decide to launch impact evaluations, design terms of reference and manage the studies. The European Fund for the Balkans supported 4 participants from the Western Balkans:

EMINA COSIC, Policy Researcher, ACIPS, Sarajevo

ADEL ABUSARA, Senior Project Assistant, OSCE, Belgrade

ANDRIJANA PARIC, Razbor d.o.o. Zagreb

ANTONIJA MRSIC, Senior Expert Associate, Business Innovation Centre of Croatia, Zagreb

In 2010 the EFB Community Members participated in the prestigious European Forum Alpbach “CONSTRUCTION AND REALITY”. They had a chance to be part of the Alpbach Political Symposium 2010 and analyse the relationship between political constructions and plans on the one hand and the resulting realities on the other. Under the motto “Construction and Reality”, this year’s Political Symposium tackled some of the most important global political constructions of the recent past and of the present. The programme was followed by an exhibition - “Europe: In Between Document and Fiction”, by Erich Lessing, Photographer and Member of Magnum Photos, Vienna.

The European Fund for the Balkans supported 3 members of the EFB Community:

VESNA PAUNKOSKA, Legal Advisor, Directorate for personal data protection, Macedonia

SHQIPE MJEKIQI, Advisor on EU Integration, Office of the President of Kosovo

DEJAN RADIC, Advisor, Indirect, Taxation Authority, Bosnia and Herzegovina

BOOKS



“SERBIA MATTERS: DOMESTIC REFORMS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION” presents policy essays on Serbia’s post-Milošević era written by internationally recognised authors, policymakers, academics and political analysts actively engaged in the Balkans discourse.

The European Fund for the Balkans supported the Serbian edition of the book “Serbia Matters: Domestic Reforms and European Integration” in Serbian language through the grant with the publishing house Samizdat B92.



“THE CULTURE LOBBY” AN ARCHIVE OF CULTURAL MEMORY is a collection of the published photographs as a collective portrait of the territories of the Western Balkans. Seven arts organizations, representing the Western Balkans, collaborated intensively throughout 2009 in an exchange of local artists whose task was to collect the subjective views of the citizens in the cities, towns and villages of the region. This book is a visual documentation of what citizens think will change or disappear when their territory joins the EU.

The European Fund for the Balkans supported publishing the book and the events organized throughout the region in form of a presentation of the project results and outcomes.



“HIJACKED JUSTICE: DEALING WITH THE PAST IN THE BALKANS” presents the authors views about the effects of transitional justice and accomplishments of the standards set by the international norms.

What is the appropriate political response to mass atrocity? In *Hijacked Justice*, Jelena Subotic traces the design, implementation, and political outcomes of the institutions established to deal with the legacies of violence in the aftermath of the Yugoslav wars. She finds that international efforts to establish accountability for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia have been used to pursue very different local political goals. Responding to international pressures, Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia have implemented various

mechanisms of “transitional justice”-the systematic addressing of past crimes after conflicts end. Transitional justice in the three countries, however, was guided by ulterior political motives: to get rid of domestic political opponents, to obtain international financial aid, or to gain admission to the European Union. Subotic argues that when transitional justice becomes “hijacked” for such local political strategies, it fosters domestic backlash, deepens political instability, and even creates alternative, politicized versions of history.

The European Fund for the Balkans supported publishing the book in Serbian language.

POLICY DIALOGUE

“THE FUTURE OF EU ENLARGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS”

Brussels, Belgium
29 May 2009

The policy dialogue was aiming to promote the existing positive examples of leadership and engagement of the Balkan youth through a political forum and present those initiatives to a broader public in Brussels. This event gave the opportunity to present the *VISION OF THE BALKANS AND THE EU* through the eyes of the representatives of *THE NEW GENERATIONS* of the Western Balkans.

The aim of the debate was to strengthen understanding amongst the representatives of the EU institutions and young people and the needs, thoughts and problems they encounter. The debate was hosted by the *EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE* at which one may influence the policy of the EU as well as of the EU member states and their attitude towards the Western Balkans. The direct and open dialogue inspired both guests and other participants of the event to proactively think about the status of young people in the Balkans, the future of the Balkans and the EU accession.

Five young participants from the Western Balkans region participated in discussion with the EU officials who are actively involved in shaping the EU policy towards the region. Their achievements and contributions to the development of their countries and the region of the Western Balkans were presented through a short documentary movie “The future of EU enlargement in the Western Balkans – Motors of change”.



SANEL HUSKIC

PRESIDENT OF ACIPS - ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE CENTRE
FOR INTER-DISCIPLINARY POSTGRADUATE STUDIES OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

extract from the movie

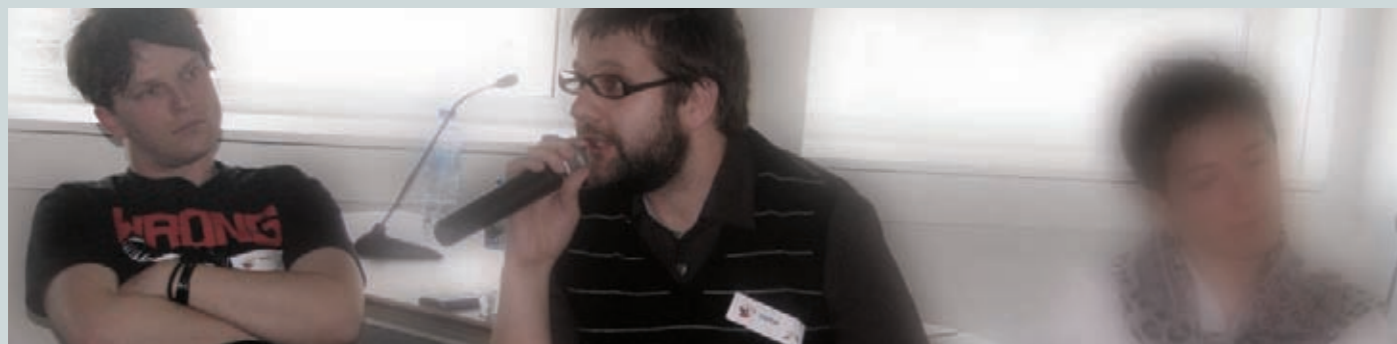
“Bosnian society has to learn to become more tolerant and not exclusive...The power structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina is such that Sarajevo and Banja Luka are playing a constant game of chess in which the citizens are just the mere pawns and this is not giving any joy or progress to anybody. Bosnia like many other countries in the region has many big issues, many big problems and often the children are neglected because we are tackling these big problems. We should and we must dedicate more time to them and try to lead them to the right path – after all they are the future of this country and this region”

FOUNDATION WEEK 2010

“BALKANS 2025: BACK TO THE FUTURE”

in the framework of the OPEN DAYS within the EFC Foundation Week

2 June 2010



What do a young civil servant, a guitarist, an artist, a civil society activist and a young leader have in common?

The “Balkans 2025: Back to the Future” gave the flavour of the recent developments in the region of the Western Balkans by involving direct partners and beneficiaries of the European Fund for the Balkans in an event of *EXCHANGE, INTERACTION, VISIONARY THINKING* and audacious ideas. A short movie presenting “The Culture Lobby”, one of the various initiatives supported by the Fund was screened as an introduction to the discussion with young people from different countries of the Western Balkans about their « retrospective » vision of the *FUTURE OF THE REGION OF WESTERN BALKANS IN 2025*. The short movie described the hopes and fears of the region’s people and perfectly set the scene for the discussion.

Panellists:

Enkelada Suti, programme assistant, UNIFEM, Tirana, Albania

Milica Pekic, project coordinator, NGO Kiosk, Belgrade, Serbia

Vedran Mujagic, member of the band, Dubioza Kolektiv, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mila Stankovik, EU Procurement and Contracting Associate, Ministry of Finance, Skopje, Macedonia

Predrag Nikolic, graphic designer, Novi Sad, Serbia

Moderator :

Andrzej Pyrka, researcher, Gallup Europe

Young Balkan residents, some of whom had previously participated in the EFB Programmes, were brought together to present their views on the region’s past, present and future. Gallup researcher Andrzej Pyrka had the job of moderating the debate and speakers gave their personal perspectives on the future of the region.

THE HUNGARIAN 2011 EU-PRESIDENCY

AND THE WESTERN BALKANS

“CIVIL BRIDGE-BUILDING”

Novi Sad, Serbia

18-19 June 2010



Conference gathered *50 REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FROM HUNGARY AND THE WESTERN BALKANS REGION*, representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Hungary responsible for realization of the EU Presidency priorities and experts involved in the EU strategy for cooperation in the Danube region.

This Conference aimed to contribute to better *COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION* between participants and to set a foundation for the fruitful cooperation during the *HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY TO THE EU*. Participants discussed objectives and priorities of the future Hungarian EU Presidency and elaborated on the Danube-region strategy. The panellists presented main challenges and opportunities of Civil Society Organizations in Hungary and in the Western Balkan countries and identified possible areas of cooperation amongst them.

This lively discussion provided useful inputs for the upcoming Hungarian presidency and useful lessons were drawn on the potentials of *FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN HUNGARY AND THE WESTERN BALKANS*.

WAVES OF DEMOCRACY

Novi Sad, Serbia
2-8 July 2010

Waves of Democracy is a project run by IUC-Europe and Global Citizen in cooperation with the European Fund for the Balkans and the European Movement Serbia. The European Fund for the Balkans financially supported the Project.

100 YOUNG EUROPEANS from the EU countries and the Western Balkans met in Novi Sad in Serbia to discuss the challenges and possibilities that Western Balkans faces in Europe and in the world. The young students from the Western Balkan countries had an amazing opportunity to meet their peers from the EU countries and in a specific intercultural atmosphere discussed how they can benefit from each other. The overall aim of this gathering was to promote peace and understanding and to give a contribution to a better future for coming generations. Through their participation in this summer school participants became part of an extensive network of young Europeans. They were educated as youth ambassadors and Global Citizen editors and a number of them will be involved in the IUC future activities in the region and in DK.

The summer seminar in Novi Sad included many various lectures, presentations, plenary debates. The overall strategy was the **MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT** (MEP concept), which has been developed by students and teachers involved in the MEP sessions. The work was organized in 10 groups and five different committees (1. Energy and Climate Change; 2. Regional Development; 3. Culture and Education; 4. New Media and Democracy; 5. Active Citizenship), which were run by experienced students, who previously participated in the international seminars.

At the end of the summer seminar participants jointly prepared the conclusions and recommendations in form of **CITIZENS AGENDA**.



ERMELINDA SHEHAJ

EFB COMMUNITY MEMBER

PARTICIPANT OF THE WAVES OF

DEMOCRACY 2010 SERBIA

ALBANIA

“ This was a unique experience for me and the first of the kind providing me with a new perspective not only to the professional. This experience will surely always have a special place in my life and heart, as part of my most valid experience.

Participation in this summer seminar was a unique opportunity for me to gain a comprehensive understanding of and training on the political issues.

I want to point out that it was very valuable for me.

Everything was great.

Furthermore, I will always be grateful for this opportunity because I met several new people who became my friends.

I believe I have made very good contacts and created a network of people relevant to my job and I am convinced we are going to continue our close cooperation and to exchange information in the future.

We were all ready to engage in the dialogue and to understand each others.

Thanks a lot to everyone.

EXIT FESTIVAL 2010

AGORA STAGE

Petrovaradin Fortress / Novi Sad / Serbia

8 - 11 July 2010



MARKO RAKAR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE MANAGER

OF THE CONSULTING COMPANY MRAK SERVICES LTD

In the past several years I have had the opportunity of working and participating in a number of programmes organized by the European Fund for Balkans and I think that through its activities EFB affects three, in my opinion, very important segments of public life which may at present seem modest and even insignificant but the benefits of whose fruition we will experience in the future.

I have taken part in various conferences, workshops, and meetings organized by the European Fund for Balkans. I have always tried to be a participant but several times I found myself in the role of speaker or lecturer and it is through these meetings that EFB performs its first vital function at regional level, that of creating the culture of dialogue. Burdened by past events and the bad decisions of people who are now gone dialogue in the region may be difficult but it is a crucial element in overcoming old and accumulated problems. Since geography is a given and since no one can build a wall around their country, the only thing left to do for us is to talk and events which gather people from the region around the same table, where they discuss their problems and situations are extremely important for our future (both individual and common).

I was very well received at all of these meetings and I used those opportunities to get to know many new people, some of which I have stayed in contact with. The European Fund for Balkans gathers the type of people who will one day, more or less probably, become leaders and decision makers in their countries. When these people meet again at some venue, this time in an official capacity, maybe even as negotiators, the common experiences provided by EFB will undoubtedly help them reach a compromise, a solution, or a common stand more quickly, with less problems, and with greater mutual trust.

Last year I participated in a program whose final phase took place in Brussels, where a number of us discussed in front of two hundred Brussels politicians, diplomats, and journalists the problems and conditions in our countries and our views on Europe and the developments in our countries. I think it's very important that the politicians in Brussels had the opportunity to hear this directly and not filtered by our politicians and journalists who all too often embellish their views, and conceal or simply leave out a part of the actual truth.



The European Fund for the Balkans is traditionally cooperating with the largest music festival in the Balkans – EXIT Festival, jointly organizing different events and activities. In July 2010 the EFB organized the panel discussion on *DEVELOPMENT VS. ENVIRONMENT Dilemma* within the framework of the EXIT social programme.

This panel discussion was devoted to the increasing gap in creation of *SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT* existing between the developed and developing parts of the world.

The panel was moderated by **Andrzej Pyrka** - Gallup Europe. The panellists were **Nigel Jollands** - Head of the Energy Efficiency Unit in International Energy Agency, **Marko Rakar** - Independent analyst from Croatia, **Dorit Nitzan** - Head of Country Offices of the World Health Organization in Serbia and in Montenegro.

EUROPEAN STORY FUND

The EUROPEAN STORY FUND is a new and innovative initiative that has been set up by The European Fund for the Balkans* to support the costs of producing stories on relevant European themes by the journalists from throughout the Western Balkans, as well as the journalists based in Brussels, reporting on WB issues. The produced stories are then shared and broadcasted by multiple media houses/TV stations from throughout the Western Balkans.

The Fund provides small grants to contribute to the additional costs of making stories for broadcasting on European issues relevant to the countries of the Western Balkans including:

- How are other Candidate/applicant countries in Western Balkans managing the EU integration processes. How does the negotiation process work?
- How did new EU member states manage key aspects of the EU integration process before they became members? What has it meant for ordinary citizens? What are the cost and benefits of the EU; did EU membership pay off?
- How do EU member states manage issues like public administration reform, the environment, regional economic development?

The rules of the Story Fund are intended to be as flexible as possible.

- The stories have to cover issues of interest to audiences in the Western Balkans on the European agenda.
- There is no restriction on the content – except the basic conventions of professional journalism. Stories have to be interesting and accessible to general audience.
- They can be shown on news programmes, or on current affairs/magazine programmes covering EU/foreign affairs on public or private TV stations in the Western Balkans

BACKGROUND

This initiative aims to improve the public understanding of the European accession process and debate on the EU integration in the Western Balkans. It establishes a flexible co-operative network of working TV journalists from throughout the region, regarded as the best in their field that share their ideas and know how as well as join their resources in the story production and sharing process.

The initiative was initially proposed by the journalists themselves coming from different countries of the Western Balkans. It is an example of locally driven regional co-operation.

* The European Story Fund is at present co-financed by the Balkan Trust for Democracy

According to the experience and knowledge of the Western Balkan journalists, there is a lack of information about what is going on in each of the countries in the region. This is not in accordance with the development of political, economic and cultural relationships between these countries.

*Borjan Jovanovski
Eurozoom, Skopje*



European Story Fund

STORIES PRODUCED IN 2009

INTRODUCTION TO TWO LAUNCH STORIES: SCHENGEN AND VISA ROAD MOVIE

When the European Commission approved the decision to allow citizens of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia visa free entry in Schengen countries starting December 2009 – everybody knew what this meant - travel throughout Europe without having to ask for official permission weeks or even months ahead.

As the launch of the European Story Fund closely coincided with the opening of the Schengen doors our journalists picked visa free travel as the obvious theme of their two initial launch stories.

December, 2009:

SCHENGEN STORY

produced by **Dusan Gajic**,
South East Europe TV Exchanges

Story also broadcasted by:

A1, Evrozum, Macedonia
TV Mreza, Serbia
TV Vijesti, Montenegro
HRT, Paralele, Croatia
RTS, Dnevnik, Serbia

The value of free access to the Schengen zone is obvious to anyone that has had the experience of waiting in line for visas in front of the Schengen country Embassies and Consular offices. However, what is less known is when, by whom and how this idea of “no borders” was initiated. The Schengen story was produced to answer exactly these questions.



The Agreement was signed in 1985, in the village of Schengen located in Luxemburg, across the river from Germany, and about 200 meters upstream from the French territory. It was initiated by Germany and France, while the Benelux countries simply joined the club, all 3 calculating that this would be a deal that would last for a few years only - to temporarily ease communication. Initially signed by only 5 Ministers, the zone now includes a total of 28, and has in the very least outlived its predicted lifespan.



December, 2009:

VISA ROAD MOVIE

produced by **Borjan Jovanovski**,
Evrozum, A1 Television

Story also broadcasted by:

TV Mreza, Serbia
TV Vijesti, Montenegro
HRT, Paralele, Croatia

Although finances are a significant factor in ones decision to ‘travel or not to travel’, in this particular case throughout Europe, for many living in the Western Balkans there is another, perhaps even more important barrier - visas. The youth particularly suffers, as each college student or young adult is asked to produce a stack of documents with each visa application, proving he/she will indeed come back to the country of origin and is not a threat for the working force of any European country.



Thus, when the Schengen borders for Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia finally opened, some jumped at the chance to explore Europe outside the Western Balkans with less procedures and greater ease.

The Visa Road Movie follows Anton – history student from Skopje, Jasna from Podgorica and Iva from Belgrade both studying at the Serbian language Literature Department as they cross the borders of the European Union for the first time, without visas, on their way to Vienna, Austria. Once in Vienna, they meet with locals their own age, learn about the Austrian education system and of course experience the city atmosphere, food and drinks.

European Story Fund

STORIES PRODUCED IN 2010



February, 2010:

STEFAN FULE'S FIRST DAY AT WORK

produced by **Dusan Gajic**,

South East Europe TV Exchanges

Story also broadcasted by:

EHRT Euromagazin, Croatia

A1 Evrozum, Macedonia

TV Vijesti, Montenegro

RTS, Dnevnik, Serbia

TV Mreza, Serbia

TV Klan, Albania

A day after the new European Commission was selected at the European Parliament in Strasbourg Stefan Fule arrived at his office in Brussels to begin his mandate as a European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy.



Our journalist follows his first day at work, filled with cabinet meetings, setting of agendas as well as dealings with numerous interview requests for the new Commissioner. In the afternoon Fule meets with the Serbian delegation headed by the government vice-president Bozidar Djelic. Fule speaks of his new tasks, goals as well as the upcoming prospects of the EU integration of the Western Balkans.

The story also covers interviews with 3 EP members – Hannes Swoboda, Doris Pack and Zoral Taler.



June, 2010:

SLOVENIA SHARES EU ACCESSION EXPERIENCE WITH FELLOW BALKAN COUNTRIES

produced by **Dusan Gajic**,

South East Europe TV Exchanges

Story also broadcasted by:

Young civil servants from Macedonia are “embedded” in key Slovenian ministries to learn everything about the conduct of the EU accession negotiations. How to organize public administration? How to absorb EU funds? How to deal with membership negotiations and adopt EU laws? They have everything to gain from the successful experience of Slovenia, their fellow ex-Yugoslav partner. This experience is a part of “Practicing Europe”, a programme of the European Fund for the Balkans, aimed at training young civil servants from the Balkan countries to cope better with the challenges of the EU accession.



DUŠAN GAJIĆ

CHIEF EDITOR

SOUTH EAST EUROPE TV EXCHANGES (SEETV)

The European Story Fund is a project with big potential.

It gives opportunities to the participating journalists to make more and better stories on the European integration issues. But to make compelling stories on Europe, journalists should be able to travel and compare experiences of the EU integration in various corners of Europe with those from the Balkans. This is where the European Story Fund comes in - to support good ideas and make sure they can be put in place. Another quality of the project is that all ideas are examined and verified by the participating journalists themselves, which creates a specific network of professionals focused on covering and explaining Europe to their audiences in various Balkan countries.

It should also be said that the ESF is only at its beginning and should now take its real shape. Its final success will depend on how successfully the heterogeneous group of the participating journalists/media is organized into workable and functioning structure - capable of turning nice ideas into concrete results.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NETWORK SUPPORTED REGIONAL SEMINARS



The Council of Europe schools of political studies were established to train future generations of political, economic, social and cultural leaders in countries in transition. They run annual courses of seminars and conferences on topics such as European integration, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and globalisation, with the participation of national and international experts.

Today the network includes 16 schools covering the whole of East and South-East Europe and the Caucasus.

The Schools of Political Studies offer a series of one-week seminars in the country, with closing seminars held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Annual seminar cycles are comprised of three to four seminars where domestic and international experts cover topics such as European integration, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and globalization. Seminar participants are young political leaders, local self-government representatives, judges, lawyers, journalists, businessmen/women and civil activists.

The European Fund for the Balkans has been supporting Regional Seminars in the Western Balkan countries since 2009.

Supported Regional Seminars in 2009:

ENERGY SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – NEW ARGUMENTS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

JUNE 2009

ORGANIZED BY THE BELGRADE FUND FOR POLITICAL EXCELLENCE IN BELGRADE

PUBLIC POLICIES AND POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING - SHIFTS AND CHALLENGES IN MAKING POLITICS MORE RATIONAL

SEPTEMBER 2009

ORGANIZED BY THE ACADEMY FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN ZAGREB

CHALLENGES AHEAD AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE BALKANS REGION

OCTOBER 2009

ORGANIZED BY THE PRISHTINA INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES IN PRISHTINA

Supported Regional Seminars in 2010:

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN WESTERN BALKANS – BETWEEN THE COMMITMENT AND THE NECESSITY

ORGANIZED BY THE MONTENEGRIN SCHOOL OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP IN BUDVA



NEVENA CRLJENKO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

The Academy for Political Development, a civil society organization from Croatia and a member of the Network of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe, has successfully cooperated with the European Fund for the Balkans since its launching event in Sarajevo.

We have been jointly presenting the results of the Gallup Balkan Monitor survey in Croatia, nominating our programme's alumni for other EFB programmes (such as Fellowship Programme for Young Government Officials from the Western Balkans and Leadership Development Programme) and disseminating the information on other Fund's activities to our alumni, as we strongly believe they offer unique opportunity for gaining not only in-depth knowledge and understanding, but also first-hand experience to the chosen participants.

The European Fund for the Balkans has supported a series of regional seminars of the Network of Schools of Political Studies in the region, gathering together the Western Balkan young leaders from all sectors to discuss the pressing issues, to share experiences and best practices, as well as to connect with their colleagues from other countries.

It's hard to overstate the importance of the European Fund for the Balkans for the region – its well structured programme areas aiming to provide capacity building for various sectors involved in the europeanization process, support it provides to other initiatives that are complementary to its vision and mission, and the dedication and professionalism of the small but very efficient EFB team. Therefore, I will use this opportunity to congratulate them for the great work done so far, as well as to wish us fruitful cooperation in the years to come – a period of crucial importance for bringing the region closer to the EU.



EFB COMMUNITY

EFB COMMUNITY [OVERVIEW]

In 2009, The European Fund for the Balkans launched the initiative to organise the EFB Community.

The EFB Community is a place for meeting people, reconnecting, cooperating and sharing ideas. The EFB Community is offering a dynamic and interactive networking experience for all past and current participants of the EFB Programmes as well as the EFB supported individuals.

FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAMME FOR
YOUNG GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS
2008-2009

2 GENERATIONS

40
Fellows

LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME
2006-2010

5 GENERATIONS

150
Participants

RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP
2010

1 EDITION

5
Fellows

SUPPORTED
INDIVIDUALS
2007-2010

20 INDIVIDUALS



PURPOSE:

- » ASSISTING AND PROMOTING GENERAL INTEREST OF THE EFB COMMUNITY
- » PROMOTING GOODWILL AMONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- » PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO PARTICIPANTS OF EFB ACTIVITIES
- » PROVIDING A FORUM FOR COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN FORMER AND CURRENT MEMBERS AND THE EFB
- » CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUTURE EFB PROGRAMMES
- » PLANNING REUNIONS
- » ORGANIZING SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS
- » ASSISTING WITH PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES

JOINT FELLOWSHIP TRAINING

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE "WORLD OF EMPLOYMENT"

Mavrovo, Macedonia, 2-4 July 2010

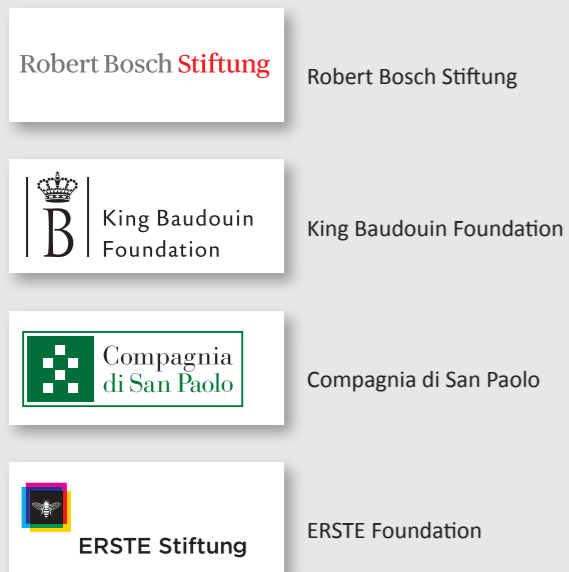


Fellows 0809 and Fellows 0910 participated in a one-day real life simulation business game of typical working environment challenges fostering the sharing of knowledge and exchange of experiences between the EFB Fellows. The Fellows had an opportunity to test their leadership, communication and cooperation skills and show the real team spirit in making the right decisions with their colleague Fellows. The main result of the Joint Training was strengthening and expansion of the network of Civil Servants in the Western Balkans and creating foundation for their future cooperation.

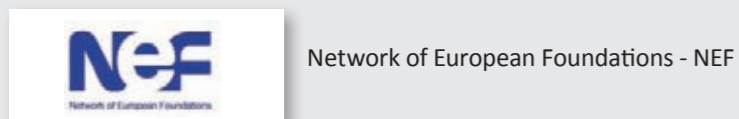
34 Fellows

PARTNERS

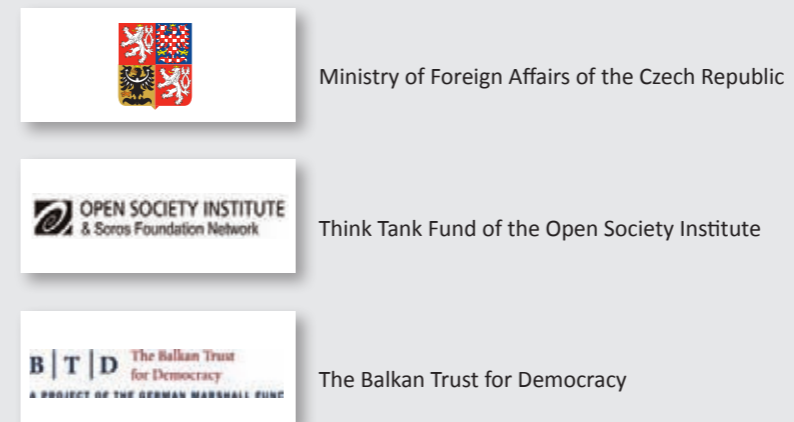
The European Fund for the Balkans is established and supported by four main foundations:



The Fund is currently hosted by the **Network of European Foundations - NEF** (Brussels) which provides legal and administrative assistance.



Apart from them, EFB developed many other fruitful partnerships and was supported by the:



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Design and layout:

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Printed by:

Repro Print, Novi Sad

December 2010 | Print run: 1000

www.balkanfund.org