2022 Conference on Migrations

Call for Abstracts and Papers

The topic of migrations, and the intrinsically linked topic of people on the move, is timely in the Balkans, neighboring countries, and global policy circles. For over three years now, the region has been faced with what has been described as a crisis: hundreds of thousands of people have moved and continue to move through the region, following a southern European migratory flow, with people from North Africa, the Levant, Western Asia, and Southeastern Asia funneled through the Balkans choke point. Policy makers, local communities, and humanitarian actors face challenges and dilemmas regarding containment, facilitation, and protection. Simultaneously, those moving through the region encounter complexity at every level and across actors from origin, while in transit, and at destination. Similar to a natural disaster, migratory flow affects all those in its path. While the region is affected across borders, there is a lack of regional coordination in policy and humanitarian response. Creating a critical space for reflection to increase collaboration and understand current approaches with policy makers, civil society actors, and humanitarians is crucial as migration will continue.

A related topic in the context of migration, but arguably less considered by local actors, is the one of emigration, also known as brain drain. People in general and young people in specific are leaving BiH and the region. A variety of push and pull factors influence the decision to emigrate and significant literature exists in this field, but very few solutions to shield states facing significant population losses have been identified. The aphorism that BiH (and other countries, including some in the EU are becoming old age homes due to high levels of youth emigration is often repeated, including by policy elites, but a cursory review demonstrates that no policies to combat this trend have been implemented or even proposed. An aspect often relegated to the background in these kinds of discussions is the one dealing with internal migrations - the movement of people from one part of the country to another, usually from the periphery to the center and from economically weaker areas to stronger ones.

This conference will address the aforementioned issues by reviewing and analyzing the role institutions have taken in managing migrations, the effects these migrations have on established systems and structures in both an abstract and a concrete sense, and the legal framework and practice of institutions, particularly the justice and law enforcement system, in ensuring migrants' human rights. It will explore the roots and consequences of irregular and mixed migrations in the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and beyond, with a high level of applicability to other contexts. In addition, it will specifically explore the role and practices of humanitarian and other frontline workers, including civil society and grassroots operations

This conference will also attempt to also demystify migration by identifying the causes and effects of internal migrations, as well as trends, then analyze the non-institutional and institutional responses to emigration and brain drain, with an emphasis on coping, and conclude by considering the circularity of contacts between emigrants and the remaining population.

In line with this, the Social Sciences Research Center, in cooperation with the Center of Competence in Humanitarian Negotiations, and with the support and partnership of the Center

for Development Evaluation and Social Sciences Research, the OSCE Mission to BiH, and the EU Delegation is inviting junior researchers, established scholars, and practioners to submit abstracts of papers regarding any one of the aforementioned topics for the first annual edition of the international scientific Conference on Migrations by December 23, 2021.

Although the topics are broad and numerous, a solid theoretical framework, a rigorous methodological approach, and significant empirical data are absolute requirements. Interested scholars are welcome to send a draft abstract as a proposal to the scientific committee for review and comments in order to better focus their work. All abstracts will be peer reviewed by members of the scientific committee and accepted, conditionally accepted, or rejected accordingly. The follow-up submission of full papers is not required, but encouraged. All abstracts will be published in a Book of Abstracts, while some papers will be published in a special edition of the Social Science Research Center's journal *Social Perspectives*, the journal *Southeast Europe*, and even as a co-edited book. A request of the organizers is that all submissions have clear policy recommendations to contribute to addressing the aforementioned issues. These recommendations will be composed into a policy brief to be published and presented to key stakeholders and policy elites; all proposals will be duly cited.

In addition to simultaneous panels dealing with the aforementioned topics, a workshop dealing with building inclusive and resilient communities, led by Ms. Teresa Albano of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe's Economic Governance Unit, will be organized for interested participants.

There will be no conference fee and lunch and coffee breaks will be provided for all participants. The conference is expected to last from 10:00 until 17:00 / 10am until 5pm.

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Deadlines and Key Dates:

December 9, 2021	deadline for submission of abstract proposals
December 16, 2021	comments on abstract proposals delivered on December 9, 2021
December 23, 2021	deadline for submission of abstracts
December 30, 2021	deadline for registration for workshops and other activities
January 6, 2022	notification of acceptance / rejection delivered to scholars
January 13, 2022	deadline for non-presentation participation registration
January 20, 2022	conference
January 27, 2022	publication of policy brief
July 27, 2022	publication of the special edition of *Social Perspectives*

Conference Co-Chairpersons: Prof. dr. Alija Kožljak and Prof. Claude Bruderlein

Conference Secretary General: Amer Kurtović, M.A.

Organizing Committee: Prof. dr. Alija Kožljak (International Burch University), chairperson; Maura James (Center of Competence for Humanitarian Negotiations), member; Dr. Nermin Oruč (Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research), member; Rebecca Agule, J.D. (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mission to BiH), member; Prof. dr. Adisa Omerbegović Arapović (Social Sciences Research Center), member; Prof. dr. Lejla Ramić - Mesihović (Social Sciences Research Center), member; Prof. dr. Esad Oruč (Social Sciences Research Center), member; Mr. Mensur Zoletić, LLM (International Burch University), member; Mr. Adem Olovčić (International Burch University), member; Mr. Amer Kurtović, MA (Social Sciences Research Center), member

Scientific Committee: Academic Mirko Pejanović, Prof. dr. Džemal Najetović, Prof. dr. Denis Sullivan, Prof. dr. Angelina Markovska, Prof. dr. Danisa Šantić, Prof. dr. Jasmina Okičić, Prof. dr. Alija Kožljak, Prof. dr. Adis Maksić, Prof. dr. Selma Delalić, Prof. dr. Senad Bećirović, Prof. dr. Adisa Omerbegović Arapović, Prof. dr. Mladen Mrdalj, Prof. dr. Esad Oruč, Prof. dr. Davor Trlin, Prof. dr. Hamid Mutapčić, Prof. dr. Ensar Mekić, Prof. Dr. Lejla Ramić - Mesihović, Dr. Nermin Oruč

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