



Sustainable Regional Development in the Western Balkans

Academy of Science of Albania

March 31, 2023

Tirana, Albania

Opening Session		
8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:15	Academician Prof. Dr. Skender Gjinushi President of the Academy of Sciences of Albania	
9:15-9:30	HE Elsa Hastad Swedish Ambassador to the Republic of Albania	
9:30-9:45	Mrs. Romina Kuko Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs	
09:45-10:00	Mrs. Elira Demiraj General Director of Economic Development and Employment Ministry of Finance and Economy	
10:00-10:15	Prof. Dr. Hans Westlund President Regional Science Association International KTH Royal Inst. of Technology, Sweden	
10:15-10:30	Prof. Dr. Peter Nijkamp University of Amsterdam, Netherlands	
10:30-10:45	Prof. Dr. Riccardo Crescenzi <i>Harnessing Global Value Chains for Regional Development</i> London School of Economics/Harvard Kennedy School of Government	
10:45-11:00	Dr. Milan Stojanovic <i>Western Balkan Alumni Association Building Regional Bridges for International Cooperation</i> Board Member Western Balkan Alumni Association	
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break	
Working Sessions		
Parallel	Session I	Session II
11:20-11:40	Prof. Dr. Tomás Lopes Cavalheiro Ponce Dentinho <i>State Borders of War and Peace, a Challenge for Regional Science</i> University of Azores, Portugal Editor in Chief, Regional Science & Practice	Prof. Dr. Giancarlo Cotella <i>Territorial Governance in the Western Balkans. Between Europeanisation and the Sirens of the Belt and Road Initiative</i> Politecnico di Torino, Italy



Regional Science
Policy & Practice

11:40-12:00	Prof. Dr. Ana Viñuela <i>Territorial Inequalities in Europe and the Need to Gather and Estimate Local Data</i> Universidad de Oviedo, Spain	Dr. Erblin Berisha <i>Who Owns the Future of the Western Balkans - A Geopolitical Perspective of Main Regional Challenges</i> Politecnico di Torino, Italy
12:00-12:20	Prof. Dr. Eric Gordy <i>Informal Political Networks: Does the Solution Make the Problem Worse?</i> University College London, United Kingdom	Prof. Dr. Fatos Xhafa <i>Emerging Data Driven Business Models: Challenges and Opportunities</i> Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain
12:20-12:40	Dr. Ana Korpen <i>Economic Development Policies Towards Post-Conflict Areas: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia</i> University of Graz	Mrs. Nikelina Naska <i>Western Balkans Agenda on Research and Innovation</i> DG Innovation and Research, Brussels, Belgium
12:40-13:00	PhD (c) Sajmira Kopani <i>Digital Labor Platforms in Albania: An Opportunity for Youth Employment</i> National University of Public Service, Hungary	Erjon Shala <i>A System for Controlling a SCARA Robot in Enterprises of the Western Balkans</i> University of Pristina, Kosovo
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-14:20	Associate Professor & Post Doc. Renata Petrevska <i>Uncovering Pathfinders and Trailblazers for Reconfiguring Western Balkans Higher Education Systems</i> St Kilment Ohridski Bitola, North Macedonia University of Gent, Belgium	Prof. Dr. Stavros Zenios <i>Climate Risk and Sovereign Risk</i> University of Cyprus
14:20-14:40	Fatlume Zhujani <i>Mathematical Modeling and Optimization of Surface Roughness Based on Cutting Parameters in CNC Drilling Process using ANOVA and Taguchi Method</i> University of Pristina, Kosovo	Erion Likaj <i>CRUM Impact on Product Delivery: The Case of Global Green Books</i> Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
14:40-15:00	Prof. Dr. Neritan Shkodrani <i>Engineering Characteristics of Ground Shaking and Some Aspects of Soil Liquefaction During Durres Earthquake</i> Polytechnic University of Tirana	Prof. Dr. Gazmend Qorraj <i>Does Absorption Capacity Support the EU Integration of the Western Balkans</i> University of Pristina, Kosovo
15:00-15:20	Dr. Ramadan Alushi <i>Energy-economic impact of Glazed Facades/Windows in Housing and Social Buildings according to Decision: No. 537, dated 8.7.2020</i> Polytechnic University of Tirana	Dr. Shukrije Rama <i>Management of Information Systems in Libraries in Kosovo</i> Institute for Social Policies Development, Kosovo



15:20-15:40	Coffee Break	
15:40-16:00	Dr. Milan Stojanovic <i>Development Potential of Rural and Peripheral Areas in the Western Balkans and the Role of the European Union in that Process</i> University of Novi Sad, Serbia	PhD (c) Semra Sikira <i>Physics Educators for Better Science Education: A Case Study of Western Balkans Science Educational Policy</i> Middle East Technical University, Turkey
16:00-16:20	Dr. Jolta Kacani <i>Regional Value Chains, A Pre-Condition for Integration in Global Markets</i> University of Tirana, Albania	Associate Professor Hatidza Jahic <i>A Conceptual Approach to Analyzing SMEs' Readiness of the Digital Innovation Ecosystem in Emerging Economies</i> University of Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina
16:20-16:40	Dr. Stefan Chichevaliev <i>European Integration and Social Entrepreneurship Development in Western Balkans</i> Vrije Universitet Brussel, Belgium	Associate Professor Anita Lalic <i>Use of Brewers Spent Grains as Emerging Protein and Fiber Source in Cupter Production</i> Croatian Veterinary Institute
Closing Session		
16:40-17:30	Conclusions and main take-aways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Hans Westlund • Prof. Dr. Tomás Lopes Cavalheiro Ponce Dentinho • Prof. Dr. Ana Viñuela • Prof. Dr. Eric Gordy • Prof. Dr. Giancarlo Cotella 	
20:00	Dinner	