



LSE

LSEE

# Research on South Eastern Europe

## Inside this issue

## Editorial

Editorial	1-2
Publications	2
LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion in SEE	3
Workshop on 'VET and Inclusive Education in the Western Balkans'	3
Research by LSEE Staff	4-6
LSEE Blog	6
Visiting Speaker Programme	7
Public Lectures: Croatia's EU Accession	8
Montenegro's Foreign Policy Priorities	8
Tanja Mišćević, Serbia's Chief EU Negotiator	9
Serbia along the European Path	9
Cyprus Settlement: the Missing Link	10
Lecture by Macedonian Foreign Affairs Minister, H.E. Mr Nikola Poposki	10
Book Launch: The Sandžak—A History	11
Third Joint PhD Symposium on SEE	11
Summer School on Nationalism, Religion & Violence in Europe	11
Staff & Donors	12

How time goes by! In September 2014 we are celebrating five years since the launch of LSEE. Our ambitious endeavour at the time was to contribute to “developing the School's expertise on South East Europe” and to “provide a significant platform on which to build high quality, independent research and facilitate public dialogue and dissemination of information on the region”. Five years on, we are happy to claim that we have travelled a long way carrying these ambitions forward. Starting as a small team at LSE's European Institute in 2009, LSEE today has a large number of researchers, associates and administrative staff with links across many of LSE's academic departments; has established collaborations with other relevant academic institutes at the University of London; and a large research network with over 40 members from universities and research institutes from across the Balkan region and Turkey.

Naturally, this has been another busy academic year for us, during which we continued to expand and to innovate. In February 2014 we launched our own blog on Southeast Europe (visit us at [blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsee/](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsee/)), which became an immediate success, with contributions by academics, journalists, and politicians from the region, an impressive growth in readership, and frequent references in mainstream media in the region. This builds on an already extensive record of public engagement and contributions to policy debates: in 2013/14 LSEE members gave interviews and contributed to media reports in over 50 occasions, including at BBC, CNN, the Financial Times, Bloomberg, and elsewhere; while also numerous were the public lectures given by LSEE staff and our policy meetings with politicians and policy-makers from the region.

Our research activities have also been burgeoning. This year saw the completion of our research programme on the 'European Neighbourhood' (funded under the EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme), which produced over half a dozen papers on aspects of institutional quality and governance, regional growth and disparities, trade openness and growth, and others. Research under our in-house Research Programmes also continued apace along our three Research Streams (Social Cohesion; Macroeconomy; Security) – with a number of papers published or under consideration in international academic journals and presentations in various academic and policy fora, including at the ETUI European Dialogue Forum, the European Policy Center, the CEFTA Week in Sarajevo, etc.

A distinctive part of our research activities has been, since 2011, our Research Network on Social Cohesion in SEE. In March 2014 the network organised a major conference in London with over 40 papers by scholars from across the region and participation by key institutional actors specialising in the Balkans (DG Enlargement, Regional Cooperation Council, EBRD). This was an opportunity for us to reaffirm and strengthen our collaboration with these organisations and to open up new collaborations, including with the Regional Research Promotion Programme for Western Balkans (RRPP) and the ERSTE Foundation. The research network keeps on expanding and deepening its thematic activities and constitutes a significant part of our plans for the future development of LSEE.

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Also significant, of course, is our range of public events and knowledge exchange activities. Our Visiting Speaker Programme this year had an all-female line up with a focus on topics of conflict resolution, ethnic accommodation and governance in both the Western and Eastern Balkans, and attracted record audiences not only from the LSE but also from other University of London colleges. Our Public Events Programme hosted many important politicians and policy figures from the region, including the Prime Minister of Croatia, Mr Zoran Milanović; the Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro, Dr Igor Lukšić; the Macedonian Foreign Minister, Mr Nikola Poposki; the Chief Turkish Cypriot Negotiator, Dr Kudret Ozersay;

Serbia's Chief Negotiator to the EU, Ms Tanja Mišćević; and others. And our PhD Symposium on South East Europe, organised jointly for a third time with UCL and Goldsmiths, gave a forum to 26 young doctoral researchers specialising on the Balkan region to present their work and exchange ideas with senior and junior members of the three host institutions.

Over the last academic year LSEE expanded not only in activities but also in numbers – with colleagues such as Dr Arjan Gjonca (Social Policy, LSE) and Prof Adam Fagan (Queen Mary) and an increasing number of visiting research fellows and research assistants joining the LSEE team. Much of our success in this year, however, has been through the hard and energetic efforts of our new Managing Administrator, Ms Tena Prelec, and our two long-standing

Research Fellows, Dr William Bartlett and Dr James Ker-Lindsay, who have been the driving force behind many of our activities and initiatives.

We are pleased to continue to have such a strong team as we move on to new research and public engagement endeavours in the next academic year – on which we hope you will have a continuing interest ●

**Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis**

Acting Director, LSEE



## Publications

### LSEE Papers on Decentralisation and Regional Policy— Research Paper No.6

#### 'Decentralisation in Kosovo: Challenges of Reforming the Local Level'

**Ilire Agimi**

In its assessment of new modes of governance in Kosovo, this paper adopts a local perspective to examine the trajectory of reform and investigates the extent to which a shift towards multi-level governance is occurring. It is argued that in a post-conflict environment, a shift towards a less-hierarchical mode of governance at the local level is the critical measure of substantive reform, and wider participation in local governance and donor interventions at local level. Drawing on primary research into the effectiveness of externally-led projects designed to open up decision-making processes and strengthen relations between state and non-state actors, the paper maps actor involvement in local government reform and identifies

the various constraints on this critical dimension of democracy promotion. The study concludes that contextual challenges including institutional legacy and ethnic division, as well as internal flaws of external initiatives, diminish the impact on driving change at the local level. Studies of external democracy assistance and the promotion of good governance have tended to focus primarily on the transformation of central government institutions and the interaction between state and non-state actors at this level. As this paper demonstrates, local governance reform arguably constitutes a much greater challenge ●



John S. Latsis  
Public Benefit Foundation

**LSEE**  
Research on  
South Eastern Europe

## LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion in SEE Second Conference

**‘Post-crisis recovery in SEE: policy challenges for social and economic inclusion’**

The LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion continues to develop the range and scope of its activities. This year, a major development has been the creation of three Working Groups aiming to develop sustainable research activity on several specific issues. The Working Groups have been established on the themes of (i) *Labour Markets*, coordinated by Professor Mihail Arandarenko, Faculty of Economics, Belgrade, (ii) *Education* coordinated by Professor Nikica Mojsoska Blazevski, American University College, Skopje, and (iii) *Social Protection and Inclusion*, coordinated by Professor Merita Xhumari, University of Tirana. The Working Group on Education held its first meeting in Skopje in May, and the Working Group on Labour Markets held its first meeting in Sarajevo in June.

The Second Research Network Conference was held at LSE in March on the theme of “Post-crisis recovery in Southeast Europe and beyond: policy challenges for social and economic



inclusion”. Over 60 participants enjoyed lively discussions on the 44 papers presented on themes ranging from Poverty and Inequality, to Employment, Education, Social Housing, Social Protection and Roma Inclusion. Keynote lectures were given by Nand Shani from the Regional Cooperation Council, Milica Uvalić from the University of Perugia, and Barbara Rambousek from EBRD. Participants were from all countries in the region, other European countries and the USA. The Conference was supported by the Regional Cooperation Council, the Erste

Foundation and the Regional Research Promotion Programme based at the University of Fribourg, opening up the Research Network to partnership with other collaborative research initiatives. The conference ended with an Open Forum on the potential for future development of research cooperation in the Western Balkans, addressed by the conference sponsors and by the coordinators of the newly established Working Groups.

With the launch of the Working Groups on specific themes, the LSEE Research Network aims to further develop its collaborative research activities over the coming year ●

Scan below to visit  
the [Network's Page](#)



## Workshop on ‘Vocational Education and Training and Inclusive Education in the Western Balkans’

The LSEE Research Network’s Working Group on Education was launched at a workshop on “Vocational Education and Training and Inclusive Education” organised in collaboration with the American University College in Skopje in May. Several papers presented findings from a recently completed project on Vocational Education and Social Inclusion, covering school entry in Albania and Serbia, school

experience in Macedonia, Croatia and Kosovo, and the transition from school to work in Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other papers covered a variety of issues such as links between higher education institutions and the labour market in Macedonia and Serbia. The Workshop provided a forum for a lively discussion of the issues raised, and for strengthening the collaborative relations among members

of the Working Group. Members of the group will be continuing their work in the future through a new project on Inclusive Education in the Western Balkans funded by the Council of Europe ●



## Research by LSEE staff

### Will Bartlett

My current research on economic policy in the Western Balkans focuses on the links and dependencies between the core, periphery and super-periphery of the European economy as a whole. The project explores *Vocational Education for Social Inclusion and Social Cohesion* and is supported by the European Training Fund. Findings from early research on this theme have appeared in the *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* (with Dr Ivana Prica) and in subsequent conference papers. I have continued my research on public sector reforms in health, education and social protection systems in the region. My research within an FP7 project on European Neighbourhood Policy has been published in three Working Papers on *SMEs*, *Skills Mismatch*, and *Social Cohesion in Ukraine* (with Dr Vesna Popovski). New research focuses on the impact of flows of international donor assistance to the region, and on the impact of investment in the cultural heritage on community cohesion. I have presented research findings on these topics at conferences in Athens, Belgrade, Berlin, Brussels, Sarajevo and elsewhere over the last year.

### Vesna Bojičić-Dželilović

The main focus of my recent work has been the completion of a manuscript for an edited volume on 'Public Policy Making in the Western Balkans: Case Studies of Selected Economic and Social Policy Reforms'. It examines the role of different policy actors in driving the policy agenda in a set of economic and social reforms intended to contribute to improved competitiveness of the Western Balkan economies. The study demonstrates that the policy process in a democratic, market-driven sense is nascent at best; that there is no evidence of policy networks as defined by the policy network analysis; and that in general, informal, unstructured and opportunistic policy coalitions exist.

In my role as research coordinator on

the project 'Forms and Spaces of Violence in Turkey and the Western Balkans', which investigates issues of peace and reconciliation, social inclusion and good governance from a human security perspective, I have overseen research on youth violence, violence at the workplace and violence related to community dislocation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. As part of the human security research stream, I have contributed to the co-authored paper titled 'Reframing objects as subjects: local agency in



international intervention in the Balkans', presented at a conference organised by the University of Surrey in June 2014.

### Spyros Economides

In the past year Dr Spyros Economides has been concentrating on his broad research area covering the external relations of the EU. Within this, he has focused on issues and areas specifically related to Greece and to the broader South East European region. His work on Greece examined the relationship between Greece and Europe in the field of foreign policy. In the first instance he has written on, 'The Relevance of "Europe" to Greek Foreign Policy' which appeared in Kevin Featherstone (ed.), *Europe in Modern Greek History* (London: Hurst and Co., November 2013). Parallel to this, Dr Economides has also worked on the notion of 'strategic culture' in the European context with specific reference to the Greek understanding of this term. The published work also took the form of a contribution to an edited volume on this subject: Spyros Economides, 'Greece', in Bastian Giegerich (et. al.),

*Strategic Cultures in Europe* (Springer Verlag, July 2013).

On the South East Europe front, Dr Economides continued to research and publish on the EU's enlargement strategy toward the region and the relationship between Serbia and Kosovo in the EU context. He published on 'Kosovo, Self-Determination and International Order', *Europe-Asia Studies*, 2013, and with Dr James Ker-Lindsay has completed a work on 'Pre-Europeanisation Accession: the EU and the Serbia-Kosovo Relationship' which is under review for publication. Similarly, again with Dr Ker-Lindsay, Spyros Economides is completing an article on the advantages and disadvantages the EU faces when it imposes conditions on candidate states that are subject to review by external parties.

### Adam Fagan

As part of the MAXCAP workplan, Professor Adam Fagan has been involved with the collection of media statements on European integration in Macedonia and Serbia to contribute to the Q-methodology data collection, and he will also be analysing different modes of integration, developed and applied by the EU to shape the rule of law in the Western Balkans as part of a future special issue. Over the past year, he has worked with MAXCAP partners BCSDN on a EuropeAid-funded study analysing international donor strategies, perceptions, and long-term plans related to civil society development in the Western Balkans, based on extensive interview data from key officials in the region. Professor Fagan recently published an article in the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* that maps international donor strategies in Kosovo. He will also be completing a book on the Europeanization of multi-level environmental governance in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia.

### Claire Gordon

Over the past academic year Dr Claire Gordon has been developing her

## ... more research by LSEE staff

research interests in the areas of social inclusion, minorities and education in the Western Balkans. Building on work for the 2011 European Parliament project on 'EU Measures to Promote the Situation of EU Roma Citizens in the European Union', she has been collaborating on a cross-country research project together with Will Bartlett, Katya Ivanova and Diana Popescu on 'Welfare systems and minorities in South East Europe'. In addition, the European Training Fund project exploring *Vocational Education for Social Inclusion and Social Cohesion* was brought to a successful conclusion with dissemination events throughout the Western Balkan region and with the publication of the final synthetic report. Other outputs in the form of articles and an edited volume are planned for the next academic year. Dr Gordon remains actively involved in capacity-building work in the social sciences in the Western Balkan region as a Steering Board member of the [Regional Research Promotion Fund for the Western Balkans](#) at the University of Fribourg and she has also delivered teaching development workshops in the past year in Albania.

### Joanna Hanson

My main research objective is looking at the work of smaller civil society organisations in the Western Balkans. These in particular will be formal and informal organisations working with or without international involvement. My aim is to analyse the impact they have and whether the environment they work in is conducive or damaging to their activity, i.e., to what extent they reflect the democratic development of their home countries.

I shall be working with Professor Adam Fagan to establish a template for the longer-term analysis of Foreign and Commonwealth Office project work in the Balkans, creating a process for assessments and formulating recommendations for UK policy makers. I intend to write a paper on the Association of Serbian Municipalities, a new institution agreed in the April 2013 Normalization

Agreement between Serbia and Kosovo. I shall attempt to establish



what the thought process behind it might be and analyse its on-going development, and in particular, whether there is any scope for wider involvement in this process.

### James Ker-Lindsay

Over the course of the past academic year my research has been mainly centred on issues relating to secession and recognition in international politics. I published an article on 'Understanding State Responses to Secession' in the journal *Peacebuilding*. This identified six distinct reasons why states oppose efforts by part of their territory to secede: symbolic attachment, economic factors, cultural and historical significance, population displacement, fear of further separatism, and pride. More recently, I have been working on a major article on the limits of diplomatic engagement with contested states. This topic has significant practical value inasmuch as this is a problem faced by many countries and international organisations in places such as Kosovo, Cyprus, Moldova and Georgia. In addition to these writing projects, I have been working on an edited book on the Cyprus Problem, which is due to be published by IB Tauris in autumn, 2014.

### Vassilis Monastiriotis

There are four agendas that my research has focused on in the last academic year. The first concerns

regional growth in the process of EU integration, focusing on the CEE, SEE and ENP regions. A paper on 'Regional growth and national development', where I examined the process of regional convergence and the regional Kuznets hypothesis, came out in *Spatial Economic Analysis* ([vol.9.2](#)) in March

2014. Two other papers, on 'The regional impact of EU association agreements: lessons for the ENP from the CEE experience' and on 'The geography of intra-industry spillovers in the EU neighbourhood', are currently under consideration for publication in two international academic journals. The second agenda concerns the analysis of labour market issues in the Western Balkans, with a focus on Serbia. A paper on 'Determinants and paths to informality in Serbia' (with A. Martelli) was presented in two international conferences in early 2014 and is forthcoming in the journal *Südosteuropa*; while also at the writing-up stage is my work on 'Public sector employment and private sector wages' (with Jelena Lausev).

The other two research agendas are focused on Greece. One uses micro-econometric data to examine aspects of wage and unemployment adjustment in Greece during the crisis: it includes a number of papers, some co-authored (with R. Christopoulou; with A. Martelli; and with E. Lopez-Bazo and E. Motellón), some of which are already under consideration for publication in international journals and two of which were published as discussion papers ([HO GreeSE Paper No.80](#) and [ELIAMEP Crisis Observatory Research Paper No.9](#)).

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## ... more research by LSEE staff

...(cont.) The last strand concerns some more macro-economic work on debt sustainability and fiscal austerity – a paper on this was published in the *Cyprus Economic Policy Review* in June 2014 ([vol.8.1](#)) – and on new industrial policy and the developmental state.

### Baris Rifat Tekin

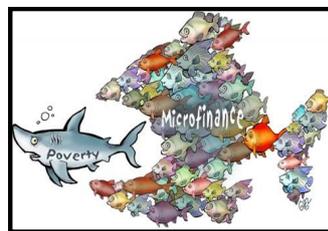
Over the past year my research has been focused primarily on the effects of the 2008-2009 global financial crisis and the Eurozone crisis on Turkey's economic and commercial relations with its South East European neighbours. My research on the impact of these two recent crisis episodes on the Turkish economy and international trade has evolved into a broader analysis of the political economy of Turkey's foreign policy. A paper on the 'Political Economy of Turkish Foreign Policy' was presented at a LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies Public Lecture. This study (co-authored) is submitted to and accepted for publication (in Turkish) in an edited volume. Another version of this study, focusing more explicitly on the implications of Turkey's shrinking development space on its foreign policy choices, will be published in the LSEE Occasional Papers Series in the autumn. At the same time, I maintained a strong focus on the neoliberal restructuring of the economic governance of the EU and its implications for mass protests in Europe. This research (with Beyza Ç. Tekin), which provides a neo-Gramscian analysis of the political economy of mass protests in Europe, is accepted for publication in 'Recent waves of mobilizations: challenging neo-liberalism, globalization and liberal democracy', an edited volume that will be published by Lexington Press. I continue working on causality relations among economic growth, FDI, and international trade in SEE ●



## LSEE Blog

### Excerpts

### A new Balkan Tragedy? The Case of Microcredit in Bosnia



"The microcredit lobby got poverty wrong: it is not about supply, it is about demand", argues **Professor Milford Bateman** (University of Juraj Dobrila, Croatia). Bateman presented his research at the 2nd Conference of the LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion in South East Europe, in March 2014.

### Devastating Floods Call for Implementation of EU-Supported Extreme Weather Adaptation Policies



In May 2014, an unprecedented natural catastrophe affected a considerable portion of SEE. "Not enough attention is given to the irreversible process of climate change that is affecting the world. Poorer countries have reduced capacities to handle dire consequences of extreme weather events, and are often the most vulnerable to these 'invisible' risks", argues **Sonja Avlijaš**.

### Kosovo elections: has everything changed?



The blog ran regular election commentaries by country experts. Commenting on the June 2014 elections in Kosovo, **Krenar Gashi**, (INDEP) **Jack Davies** (Kosovo 2.0) and **Naim Rashiti** (Balkans Policy Research Group) analysed the unexpected turn the elections' aftermath had taken, as a coalition of minor parties threatened to block Hashim Thaci from returning to premiership. ●

VISIT THE LSEE BLOG TO READ MORE  
at [blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsee](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsee) or scan:



# Visiting Speaker Programme

## A series of research and policy seminars



The audience at Cañada Blanch Room

Now in its fourth year, LSEE's Visiting Speaker Programme has continued its excellent range of contributions throughout the Michaelmas and Lent Terms.

Held on alternate Tuesday evenings, the programme has become a leading forum for new and established scholars working on aspects of contemporary economics, politics and international relations in South East Europe.

This year, the programme started with **Professor Vesna Goldsworthy** (Kingston University) who gave a fascinating lecture on the development of Balkan stereotypes in Western European modern literary tradition.

This was followed by a talk on ethnic struggle and democratisation in Romania in relation to Hungarian politics, by **Dr Sherrill Stroschein** (University College London); attempts at establishing a truth commission for the war crimes of the 1990s which took place on the territory of former Yugoslavia, by **Dr Jasna Dragovic-Soso** (Goldsmiths, University of London); an examination of ethno-nationalist conflict in postcommunist states by **Dr Maria Koinova** (University of Warwick);

and Albanian militant self-organisations in late socialist Yugoslavia, presented by **Dr Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers** (University of Bournemouth).

In the Lent Term, the programme continued with a presentation by **Dr Catherine Baker** (University of Hull), titled 'The Local Workforce of International Intervention in the Yugoslav Successor States: 'Precariat' or 'Projectariat'?; followed by a talk on Serbian-Albanian mixed marriages in 'post-Kosovo' times by **Dr Armanda Hysa** (School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London).

The next two presentations were by **Dr Nina Caspersen** (University of York) on intra-state conflicts, strategies for conflict resolution, and unrecognised states in the Balkans and the Caucasus; and by **Dr Katarina Lezova** (Goldsmiths, University of London) on Kosovo-Slovakia relations six years after the declaration of independence.

Podcasts for all of the events are available on the LSEE website ●

Scan below to go to the [Visiting Speaker Programme Page](#)



Dr Jasna Dragovic-Soso



Dr Maria Koinova and Dr James Ker-Lindsay



Dr Armanda Hysa and Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis



Dr Nina Caspersen and Dr James Ker-Lindsay

## 2014-15 Academic Year

Looking ahead, we are already well advanced in terms of our planning for the 2014-15 visiting speaker programme. Confirmed participants so far include Florian Bieber (Graz), John O'Brennan (NUI), James Dawson (UCL), Anca Pusca (Goldsmiths), Nicole Lindstrom (York), Gezim Krasniqi (UCL).

Unless otherwise stated, all seminars take place every second Tuesday in the Cañada Blanch Room (COW 1.11), Cowdray House, Portugal Street, LSE at 18:00 ●

## Public Lectures

# Croatia's EU Accession: Expectations and Realities

H.E. Mr Zoran Milanović, Prime Minister of Croatia



In July 2013, Croatia became the EU's 28th member state after a decade of negotiations. Is reality meeting the expectations? Croatia's Prime Minister **Zoran Milanović** discussed the topic in a LSEE public lecture on **24 February 2014**.

The PM of the youngest EU member state surprised the audience with an attitude that did not strike as openly pro-European. **"We have a united Europe, and it's great, but it's enough"** – he said, commenting on prospects of deepening EU political integration. Milanović however described the EU as a driving force for reforms, while acknowledging that these reforms were still ongoing in his country, especially in the economic sector. He also repeated his commitment not to allow for another referendum against minority rights to take place, in the aftermath of a referendum banning marriage for same-sex couples in Croatia.

Mr Milanović continued his lecture, talking about his government's domestic priorities (fostering an entrepreneurial-friendly environment and increasing the protection of human rights), commitments in the

international arena (keeping NATO and EU enlargement "realistic and viable") and Croatia-UK bilateral relations, which he was determined to strengthen further.

Zoran Milanović has been the prime minister of Croatia since 2011 and is a former chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP). He graduated from Zagreb Law School in 1986 and completed his master's degree in European Union law at the Flemish University in Brussels ●



Dr Spyros Economides; Professor Kevin Featherstone; Mr Zoran Milanović and Dr James Ker-Lindsay

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[LSEE Events Page](#)



## Montenegro's Foreign Policy Priorities

H.E. Dr Igor Lukšić, Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro

Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and former Prime Minister (2010-12) of Montenegro, **Dr Igor Lukšić**, spoke about the country's efforts in terms of foreign policy in a tightly-packed Alumni Theatre on **30 October 2014**.

**"Our priorities are clear – to join the**

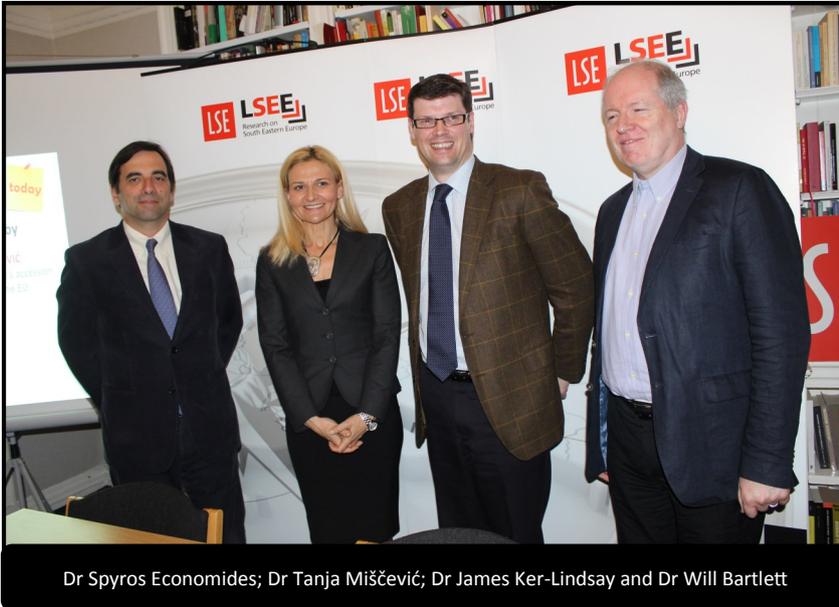
**EU and NATO"**, Lukšić said. "In terms of time, NATO membership might come sooner than EU membership, but that doesn't really mean anything. As we see it, those two priorities are on the same level. It's all a campaign for Europe. Our efforts are to be a part of Europe, in every meaning".

The Q&A debate touched on several

other topics of interest, including relations with Russia, progress in the fight against corruption, foreign investment in the region, the rule of law and financial assistance for it.

Montenegro became independent in 2006 and formally began accession negotiations with the European Union in 2012 ●

## Tanja Mišćević, Serbia's Chief EU Negotiator



Dr Spyros Economides; Dr Tanja Mišćević; Dr James Ker-Lindsay and Dr Will Bartlett

On **12 May 2014**, LSEE hosted a lecture by **Tanja Mišćević**, Chief Negotiator for Serbia's accession negotiations with the EU. Dr Mišćević is also a former State Secretary of the Republic of Serbia Ministry of Defence and is a Vice President of the European Movement of Serbia. She is also a professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade and teaches courses on International Organizations, EU Accession Policy, History of European Integration, among others.

**Dr Mišćević** began her talk with a detailed overview of the current issues surrounding Serbia's accession negotiations. She spoke in detail about her role in the process and about the responsibilities she faces regarding the implementation of EU standards. She stressed that the benchmarks which Serbia has to meet are different from previous accession countries and that Serbia now has a new model of negotiations with the EU – one which places special emphasis on Chapters

23, 24 and 35 of the accession negotiations.

The talk was followed by questions and answers under the chairmanship of **Dr James Ker-Lindsay**. These focused on issues of public awareness, possible reform outside of EU standards, assistance and expertise from member-states, migration and foreign security policy, as well as energy security issues in relation to the South Stream gas pipeline project.

In an interview following her talk, featured in the LSEE blog, Dr Mišćević commented - **"our goal is not only to negotiate membership, but also to achieve a good deal for Serbia, as well as using the negotiation process to change and improve our structures and institutions"** ●



The audience during the Q&A session

## Serbia along the European Path

### H.E. Dr Ognjen Pribičević, Serbian Ambassador to the UK



Dr Ognjen Pribičević

On **30 January 2014**, **Dr Ognjen Pribičević**, the Serbian Ambassador to the UK gave a lecture at the Thai Theatre, LSE, titled 'Serbia along the European path'. On 21 January 2014,

Serbia entered the negotiation process towards EU accession. The date is not important to Serbia alone, but to the region as a whole, commented **Dr Pribičević**. He argued that the opening of the negotiations will speed up internal reforms in Serbia and will arguably give impetus to the process of reconciliation in the region. Serbia will be faced with two major challenges: the implementation of the Brussels agreement and the implementation of domestic reforms.

Before entering the world of diplomacy, **Dr Pribičević** has enjoyed a

successful career in academia, including fellowships at the Universities of Oxford, Vienna and Pittsburgh. His previous posts include: Scientific Advisor, Institute of Social Sciences; Researcher at the Institute for Journalism; Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, 2005-2009; and Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, 2004-2005.

The lecture was chaired by **Dr James Ker-Lindsay** ●

## Cyprus Settlement: the Missing Link

Dr Kudret Özersay, Chief Negotiator of the Turkish Cypriot Side in Cyprus



Dr Kudret Özersay and Dr James Ker-Lindsay

On 9 June 2014, Dr Kudret Özersay, the Chief Negotiator of the Turkish Cypriot Side in Cyprus Talks held under the auspices of the UN Secretary General, told the LSEE's audience that Turkish Cypriots need to take Greek concerns into consideration if a peace deal is ever to be reached.

**"If we are willing to achieve something that is viable and sustainable and if we**

**don't want to have a failed state like the one in Bosnia-Herzegovina, we need to take into consideration the concerns mentioned by the Greek Cypriots since 2004,"** Mr Özersay said.

He said the negotiations needed more structure if they are ever to succeed, and auspicated the drawing of a road map to tackle all of the outstanding issues that the parties were not willing to negotiate at the early stages of the

talks. Mr Özersay also expressed concern that parties are now reopening issues which were previously settled.

Dr Kudret Özersay is the Chief Negotiator

of the Turkish Cypriot Side in Cyprus Talks held under the auspices of the UN Secretary General. He is Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations of the Eastern Mediterranean University of Cyprus, and has previously held posts at the UN, OSCE, and Ankara University. The event was organised by the European Institute in association with LSEE Research on SEE ●

## H.E. Mr Nikola Poposki

Macedonian Foreign Affairs Minister



On 11 June 2014, LSEE had the pleasure of hosting H.E. Mr Nikola Poposki who has held the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs since 2012. Mr Poposki began his address by recognising that the global economic

crisis has had an impact on the whole of the Balkan region. He argued that Macedonia should prioritise efforts for economic reform and should strive to deliver systems of predictability which are based on the rule of law. 'What needs to be tackled now is effective

implementation', Mr Poposki stated. Macedonia is meant to be part of the EU, he concluded, most of all because Macedonians themselves are pressuring politicians to become more professional. As for the long-standing

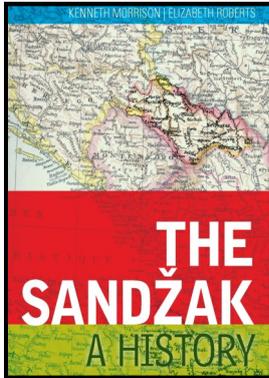
name dispute with Greece, he deems that the only way to get out of the deadlock is to stop thinking about it as a game which has to be won: **"We don't want to 'win' against Greece – we want to be real partners"**, he said in an interview for the LSEE Blog.

Mr Poposki has previously served as his country's ambassador to the EU in Brussels, and was a Team Leader in the European Commission, Joint Research Centre. Minister Poposki is an economist and holds a master's degree from the College of Europe in Bruges.

The event was organised by the LSEE's European Institute in association with LSEE Research on SEE ●

## Book Launch: The Sandžak—A History

### Dr Kenneth Morrison & Lady Elizabeth Roberts



On **23 October 2014**, LSEE hosted the launch '*The Sandžak: A History*'. The book offers an intricate yet succinct analysis of the religious, ethnic and political dynamics that shaped the Sandžak region and is the first detailed history of the area in the English language.

As the book's two authors, **Dr Kenneth Morrison** (De Montfort University, Leicester) and **Lady Elizabeth Roberts** (Oxford University) commented in an interview for the LSEE blog, "**The area is something of a 'terra incognita' for many people**, scholars and lay readers alike, in Western Europe, so our aim was to write something that would enable people to better understand this little known, but important part of the Balkans." The seminar was chaired by **Dr Will Bartlett**, Senior Research Fellow in the Political Economy of SEE, and was followed by a reception ●



## Third Joint PhD Symposium on South East Europe

On **13 July 2014**, staff and students from LSEE participated in the Third Joint PhD Symposium on South East Europe, which was held at UCL's School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies. Originally established in 2010, and hosted firstly at the LSE and then at Goldsmiths (2012), this biannual event was designed to foster cooperation between three centres of South East European studies within the University of London. As with previous symposiums, this third event once again saw a diverse range of papers presented from across the social sciences and humanities, and covered all the countries of the region ●

## Summer School on Nationalism, Religion and Violence in Europe

LSEE was pleased to be able to support the second summer school on 'Nationalism, Religion and Violence in Europe'. Hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague, **23 June-4 July 2014**, the event followed the hugely successful first summer school held at the International Hellenic University in Thessaloniki in 2013.

Once again, LSEE was represented by **Dr James Ker-Lindsay**, who presented an afternoon workshop on 'Contemporary Conflicts in Europe: The Cases of Cyprus and Kosovo', as well as by the Hellenic Observatory's **Dr Nikos Skoutaris**, who spoke on the 'Constitutional Accommodation of Conflicts' ●



## Who's Who

### Professor Kevin Featherstone

LSEE-Research on SEE Chair; Hellenic Observatory Director; Eleftherios Venizelos Professor of Contemporary Greek Studies & Professor of European Politics

### Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis

LSEE Acting Director; Associate Professor in the Political Economy of South Eastern Europe

### Dr Spyros Economides

LSEE Co-ordinator; Hellenic Observatory Deputy Director; Associate Professor in International Relations and European Politics

### Dr James Ker-Lindsay

LSEE Public Events UK Co-ordinator; Eurobank EFG Senior Fellow in the Politics of South Eastern Europe

### Dr Will Bartlett

LSEE Research Grants and Networks Co-ordinator; Senior Research Fellow in the Political Economy of South Eastern Europe

### Dr Vesna Bojčić-Dželilović

Senior Research Fellow, Department of International Development, LSE

### Dr Arjan Gjonca

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### Dr Claire Gordon

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LSEE & Hellenic Observatory Manager

### Ms Tena Prelec

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### Ms Aleksandra Stankova

HO & LSEE Admin Assistant

### Mr Jakub Krupa

Blog Assistant Editor

## Donors

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