

**5th Conference of the LSEE Research Network on Social  
*Cohesion in South East Europe***  
*in collaboration with EBRD*

**Economic and social inclusion in an age of political  
uncertainty in South East Europe**

Faculty of Economics  
University of Belgrade  
21-22 November 2019

Call for Papers

**Rationale**

The countries of South East Europe have been severely affected by in the aftermath of the economic crisis over the last decade, leading to rising levels of poverty and inequality. As revealed by recent surveys, such as EBRD's Life in Transition Survey and Eurofound's European Quality of Life Survey, satisfaction with living conditions in the region is far below that elsewhere in Europe. Young people face particular difficulties of economic and social exclusion. This is not just a social issue but has ramifications for the prospects for post-crisis economic recovery and inclusive economic growth in the future. In this respect, the issue of economic and financial inclusion is paramount, as exclusion from labour markets, unequal access to finance, and selective access to educational opportunities holds back the development of human capital and creates barriers to economic growth. Unequal regional development linked to manufacturing decline and weak local government institutions produces local pockets of poverty among "left-behind" sections of the populations. The conference seeks to identify areas of economic and social policy that may have been overlooked in Southeastern Europe due to the turbulent politics of the region, but which may

hold keys to an inclusive pattern of economic growth in the future. Such policies might include support for the development of social enterprises and cooperatives, the promotion of female entrepreneurship, improving systems of vocational and higher education and work- based learning through collaboration with the private business sector, improving active labour market policies especially targeting young people and other vulnerable groups, reducing the “push factors” that drive emigration by promoting local economic development and fiscal decentralisation, and the introduction of new social protection policies including innovative ideas such as universal basic income and other innovative approaches to social welfare systems.

### **Aims**

The conference aims to bring together scholars and practitioners working on the broad theme of economic and social inclusion in South East Europe to present their latest research findings on these issues. Contributions are welcome from a wide range of disciplines including all branches of economics, transition and development studies, political economy, social policy, law, and public administration. The conference aims to lay the foundations for the production of an edited book, featuring the best papers presented at the conference. Papers may also be considered for publication in the refereed journal *Economic Annals*.

### **Conference Themes**

- Economic and financial inclusion
- Deprived regions and unequal development
- Income inequality and social protection policies
- Labour markets and migration of young people
- Vocational skills development and work-based learning
- Youth employment initiatives
- Social enterprise and cooperatives
- Female entrepreneurship
- Roma inclusion
- Quality of life and wellbeing

### **Important dates**

- 6 September 2019: Deadline for submission of abstracts
- 12 September 2019: Notification of acceptance
- 14 November 2019: Delivery of full conference paper
- 21-22 November 2019: Conference, Belgrade

## **Abstracts**

Abstracts of no more than 300 words should contain the title, author(s) name and affiliation, and contact details. Abstracts should clearly state the aims of the paper, the methodology used, and expected findings. The conference stream to which the paper is addressed should be indicated. Abstracts should be submitted by 25 June 2019 to: *Administrator, LSEE, European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science: [euoinst.lsee@lse.ac.uk](mailto:euoinst.lsee@lse.ac.uk)* with a subject line “LSEE EBRD Conference 2019”.

## **Discussants**

Members of the communities of policy and practice involved in supporting and designing economic and social inclusion policies are invited to attend the conference as discussants within one of the themes of the conference. Applications to act as discussants are welcome from members of government agencies and structures in the region engaged in implementing inclusion policies, members of donor organisations and NGOs actively engaged in inclusion policy and practice.

## **Organising committee**

Mihail Arandarenko, University of Belgrade  
Will Bartlett, LSEE, European Institute, LSE (Chair)  
Branislav Boričić, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade  
Dragana Marjanović, EBRD, Belgrade  
Vassilis Monastiriotis, LSEE, European Institute, LSE Ivana  
Prica, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade  
Biljana Radonjić Ker-Lindsay, EBRD, London  
Barbara Rambousek, EBRD, London  
Saša Randjelović, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade  
Merita Xhumari, University of Tirana

## **Travel, accommodation and catering**

Costs of travel and accommodation for up to three nights will be provided for authors of selected abstracts. Coffee/tea and a buffet lunch will be provided during the conference. Other participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

## **Publishing opportunities**

Papers presented at the conference can be submitted for publication in the refereed academic journal *Economic Annals*:

<http://www.ekof.bg.ac.rs/publikacije/casopisi/ekonomski-anali/>

## **Organisers**

The conference is organised jointly by LSEE, the EBRD, and the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade.

## **About LSEE**

LSEE (LSE Research on South East Europe) is a research unit established within LSE's European Institute. It was officially launched at the start of the 2009-10 academic year. Drawing on the strength of existing and new academic expertise at the LSE and complementing the work of the Hellenic Observatory and the Contemporary Turkish Studies Programme, LSEE aims to provide a significant platform on which to build high quality, independent research and facilitate public dialogue and dissemination of information on the region.

## **About the LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion**

The research network aims to promote fundamental independent research into issues of social cohesion and social inclusion, covering a broad range of policy themes such as employment and job creation, skill mismatches, vocational education and training, health reforms, pension reforms, social protection, social entrepreneurship, ethnic minorities and Roma issues, fiscal decentralization and spatial inequalities. The research network is composed of leading scholars on social and economic issues from all the Western Balkan countries. See [here](#).

## **About EBRD**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) invests in changing lives. It pursues the goal of advancing the transition to open, market economies, whilst fostering sustainable and inclusive growth. Economic inclusion, i.e. the opening up of economic opportunities to previously under-served social groups, is integral to achieving transition towards sustainable market economies. An inclusive market economy ensures that anyone regardless of their gender, place of birth, socio-economic environment, age or other circumstances can access labour markets, entrepreneurship and, more generally, economic opportunity. Operationally, inclusion enhances the EBRD's investments by creating

economic opportunities for young people, women, and people in less advanced regions. These are broadly defined as access to jobs and skills, finance and entrepreneurship and services such as IT connectivity or improved water connections.