

Dear Madame/Sir,

It is our great honor to invite you to the panel discussion debate organized by the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje on the subject of: Depolarization of the public discourse: The Macedonian "invisible" criteria for EU membership

The Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje (ISSHS) is a non-profit research organization working in the field of applied social sciences and humanities that is dedicated to multi-thematic studies of policies. It enjoys the status of scientific institution in the fields of social sciences and humanities assigned by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia (Work Permit n.30). The institute is also accredited as a high education institution that offers post-graduate studies.

Second year in a row, ISSHS undertakes project activities in the areas of reconciliation, transitional justice, and depolarization of public discourse. Within the project's framework, several debates, consultations, workshops and public events have been organized with the purpose of understanding, supporting and encouraging the process of depolarization in the Macedonian society. Up to now, more than a hundred of MPs, party representatives, representatives of the parties' youth associations, experts and other parties interested in the subject (historians, psychologists, journalists, political scientists, and lawyers) have taken part in the activities undertaken by ISSHS. In addition, the Institute has published several policy analysis on the subjects mentioned previously.

The President of the Republic of North Macedonia, dr. Stevo Pendarovski, will open the debate with an introductory speech followed by the contributions of dr. Trajko Slaveski, member of executive committee of VMRO DPMNE, Ivana Tufegcikj, MP in the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia, Christian Castagna, expert on the Balkans and associate of the French Senate, and dr. Katerina Kolozova, professor at the Institute of social sciences and humanities – Skopje. Dr. Gordan Georogiev, the leader of the project, will act as a moderator to the debate.

Representatives from the civil sector, representatives from the youth associations of the political parties, last year students from the Political Science and Legal Studies Departments, representatives of the diplomatic community in RNM and representatives from international organizations working in RNM have been invited to the event which is open to media.

The participants who do not understand Macedonian language will be offered simultaneous translation in Macedonian and Albanian.

The debate will be held on June 27th at 11am in the Holiday Inn hotel (Millennium 2 hall).

The project undertaken by ISSHS is supported by the foundation National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Given the limited seats in the conference hall, we would kindly ask you to confirm your presence at the following e-mail: info@isshs.edu.mk or via phone call to 02 3113059, by 13:00, June 25th at latest.

Respectfully, Gordan Georgiev Head of the project Project's contact person: dr. Kalina Lecevska (kalina.lecevska@isshs.edu.mk)