

ONLINE EXPERT WORKSHOP

It is our great pleasure to invite you on the closed panel discussion on the topic: **On the path towards the EU: Effective and transparent administration in service for citizens**, hosted by the Institute of Social Science and Humanities – Skopje and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Project office for Bulgaria and North Macedonia.

The event will take place on **December 11, 2020** on the **Zoom** online platform, starting from **11:00 a.m. (CET)**.

In the introduction of the panel, prof. Katerina Kolozova will shortly present the study “**On the path towards the EU: Effective and transparent administration in service for citizens**”.

The project seeks to analyze the public policies and examine the underlying principles in law-making and implementation in terms of their adherence to the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, focusing on two issues in particular: placement of the individual at the center of the governing activities (to paraphrase the Charter) and the right to good administration as one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Charter at issue. Full compliance to those aspects shall be fundamental for the national administrative reform agenda and an incremental part of the opening of the EU-accession process.

Considering the newly elected government led by the Social Democrats has prioritized the implementation of the Urgent Reform Priorities (URP) set by the European Commission seeking to hinder the democratic backsliding, we argue that it is time to examine to what extent the allegedly good legislation (but “bad implementation”) adheres to the fundamental principles of the Union. We will focus on the administration and its role of service to the citizens, namely on the issue of implementation of the IRP in terms of practice ordinary citizens are faced with on daily basis. We contend that “the bad implementation” consists in heavily bureaucratized state apparatus that hinders the right to good and individual centered administration with no effective means to seek justice and compensation when damaged by the institutions. The “bad implementation” of the allegedly “good laws” is derived from certain tenets of the legislation that betray a self-serving state apparatus rendering the citizen a silent subject to contradictory and costly procedures. The same legislation and the prescribed steps of implementation, present in the laws and bylaws, leave the citizen without juridical and other mechanisms that would help defend the individual and collective civic right vis-à-vis the state.



Thus, we will tackle the adherence to the principles of the fundamentals rights in lawmaking and governance, but, also, the concomitant issues of institutional transparency, accountability and low to middle level of administrative corruption, encountered by the ordinary, measured through our evidence based research.

This project continues ISSHS' effort to work on “de-capturing” the state institutions by working on projects aimed at depolarizing, creating assumptions for wider social reconciliation, as well as reinforcing the populist and illiberal tides in Macedonian society. By this latest project, together with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Considering North Macedonia is expected to initiate the process of negotiations toward the end of 2020, and keeping in mind that the first negotiating chapter covers precisely the areas of judiciary and European fundamental rights, we consider it more than timely to monitor and raise awareness as to whether the legislation and its implementation indeed subscribes to the key values of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. One of the principles – if not the core principle – expressed in the preamble of the Charter is the following: “One of the central principles of the European Union is the It places the individual at the heart of its activities, by establishing the citizenship of the Union and by creating an area of freedom, security and justice.” Thus, good and efficient administration and the values in Chapter 23 are intrinsically linked (and by extension Chapter 24 too, concerning an efficient and just Administrative Court).

Participants:

Ljupcho Petkovski, moderator, Junior Scientific Associate of Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje (ISSHS)

Katerina Kolozova, Executive Director of Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje (ISSHS)

Martin Kothé, Regional Director East and Southeast Europe, Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)

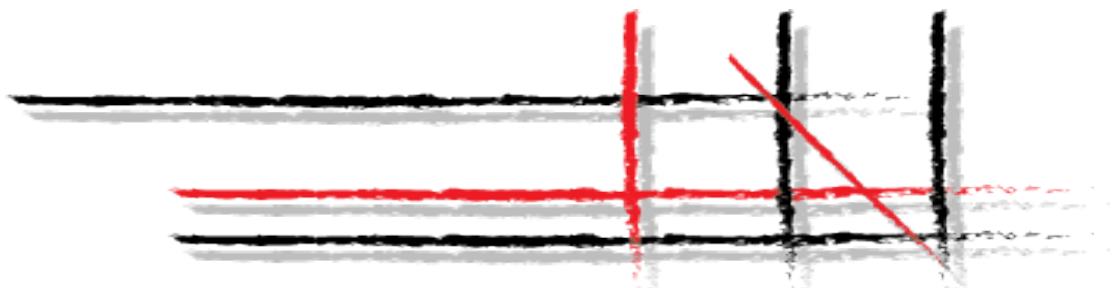
Bojan Marichikj, Minister of Justice of North Macedonia

Victor Guzun, Former Ambassador of Moldova to Estonia, and currently a professor at Tallinn University and ICT consultant in Estonia

Simonida Kacarska, Director of European Policy Institute (EPI)

Gjergji Vurmo, IDM's Program Director and BiEPAG Expert

Stanimir Panajotov, Center for Advanced Studies in Sofia



AGENDA

11:00-11:07 **Welcoming note and opening remarks by Ljupcho Petkovski**, Junior Scientific Associate of Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje (ISSHS)

11:07-11:12 **Martin Kothé**, Welcoming address on behalf of FNF

11:12-11:15 **Katerina Kolozova**, Welcoming address on behalf of ISSHS and brief presentation of main findings and recommendations of the study

Speakers:

11:15-11:30 **Bojan Marichikj**, Minister of Justice of North Macedonia

11:30-11:45 **Victor Guzun**, Former Ambassador of Moldova to Estonia, and currently a professor at Tallinn University and ICT consultant in Estonia

11:45-12:00 **Simonida Kacarska**, Director of European Policy Institute (EPI)

12:00-12:15 **Gjergji Vurmo**, IDM's Program Director and BiEPAG Expert

12:15-12:30 **Stanimir Panajotov**, Center for Advanced Studies in Sofia

12:30-13:00 **Discussion moderated by Ljupcho Petkovski**

