



CEPS ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

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The Rule of Law: Where Are We Heading?

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SPEAKERS' BIOS



Aleksandar Jovanoski is EPI's (European Policy Institute) Programme Coordinator for Democracy and Rule of Law. He holds an MA in European Integration and Development, with specialization in European political integration and area of justice, freedom and security. Aleksandar's research interests are focused on accession process of Macedonia especially in the Democracy and Rule of Law Area and evaluation of the policies under Chapter 23 – Judiciary and fundamental rights.

Besa Arifi was born in Tetovo on October 31st 1981. She has completed her BA, MA and PhD studies in the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus", at the "St. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje. She graduated as the best student of her generation having finished her BA studies one year earlier than her colleagues. She defended her MA thesis and PhD dissertation under the supervision of Academic Vlado Kambovski. Her MA thesis (defended on July 2006) is titled "Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters" whereas her PhD dissertation (defended on October 2010) is titled "Victim's position in criminal law". On March 2004 she started working as a junior assistant in the Faculty of Law, South East European University in Tetovo gaining her Assistant Professor title in April 2011 and her Associate Professor title in June 2016. She has served as the Director of the SEEU Human Rights Center from 2007 to 2012. She is now an active member of the Max Van der Stoel Research Institute and also serves as the Coordinator for international relations and mobility in the Faculty of Law, SEEU. She is an active member of the Macedonian Association for Criminal Law and Criminology, the International Association for Penal Law, the UNODC ACAD group on anti-corruption and the Washington based RESOLVE network on finding research solutions to Violent Extremism (she has participated in the launching of this project in New York in September 2015). She has attended three intensive courses on International Criminal Law in the Siracusa Institute for Higher Studies on Criminal law in Sicily, and she has also attended the 2007 SUSI Institute on American Political Thought and Political Development. She has attended many other study visits as well as conferences in EU, USA and Middle East such as a one-week study visit to the Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois in April 2015, etc. She has published numerous articles in international, regional and national reviews, while her research interests include criminal law, human rights law, rule of law, anti-corruption and CVE. She also writes weekly articles for TV Nova Web (in Macedonian) and Portalb (in Albanian). She communicates in Albanian, Macedonian, English, French, Serbian and Turkish.

Blerim Reka (1960) is the Pro-Rector for International Relations at SEEU, and was Pro-Rector for Research; Dean of Faculty of Law; and Dean Faculty for Political Science and Public Administration. He is Full Professor of International Public Law, international relations and EU Law. He was Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the EU, Brussels (2006-2010), and Diplomatic Adviser of the President of the Republic of Kosovo. He gained his PhD in International Public Law from the University of Prishtina / University of Graz. He holds a Master of Civil Law and a Bachelor in Law. His academic work brought him to Harvard University and to the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, (as Fulbright senior fellow). He was visiting lecturer at: USC Los Angeles, Bologna, Graz, Gent, Calabria University, etc; oversaw a wide range of research projects as a senior researcher (Columbia University, Indiana University, Graz University, etc.); and mentoring PhD candidates in: Belgium, Poland, Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. He gave legal consultancy expertise, did constitutional drafting and diplomatic advise for: international organizations, (UN, WB, IMF, OSCE, EU, Council of Europe, etc); and countries (for the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and for the President of the Republic of Kosovo). He was member of legal experts who drafted "Constitutional Framework for Kosovo", appointed by UN SR of Secretary General (2001). He was also member of Expert Team of Government of Republic of Macedonia for National Strategy for Integration to EU, (2004), and Member of Constitutional Comity of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia who drafted amendments according to The Ohrid Framework Agreement (2001- 2002). Actually, he is expert for Western Balkans at Geopolitical Information Service (GIS), Vaduz, Liechtenstein. Author of 19 books, and 67 studies published in international journals. His recent books are: "International Relations", (ISP, Skopje, 2016); EU Law, (SEE University press, 2011); "Institutions and Policies of EU", (Universitas, 2010); "The Geopolitics and the Techniques of EU Enlargement", (Aspect, Brussels, 2010), etc.

Dragan Tevdovski was Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics, "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University before being elected Minister of Finance,. His primary research interests include applied econometrics, macroeconomic policy and labor markets. He teaches the following subjects: business statistics and economics and quantitative methods in finance (undergraduate studies), time series analysis, demographic methods (postgraduate studies), multivariate analysis (postgraduate studies and Ph.D. studies), and applied statistical software (Ph.D. studies). In 2016, he won the award "The best scientist at "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in the field of social sciences in 2015". Students' survey conducted by Fakulteti.mk website selected him in the group of "The most inspiring professors in Macedonia" in 2016 as well. Tevdovski was Postdoctoral Research Fellow at CREATES, Aarhus University (September 2013 - June 2014). He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the Faculty of Economics, "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University and his M.Sc. in Statistics from the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade, Serbia.

Emil Atanasovski is responsible for overseeing and managing WFDs (Westminster Foundation for Democracy) Western Balkans programmes. The programme supports the work of the regional parliamentary network of committees on economy, finance and European integration of Western Balkans, which brings together eight Western Balkan parliaments and over 25 committees. Emil also oversees the work of individual WFD country offices in Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and currently lead on the development of two parliamentary budget offices in Serbia and Montenegro. He has implemented work for the foundation in the Western Balkan region for nearly 7 years. His principal field of expertise is in democracy and governance more specifically parliamentary strengthening, supporting political party development and electoral assistance. Emil has more than 15 years of experience in the field of international development with a specific focus on parliamentary strengthening, political party and electoral support and has managed democracy assistance programmes in Europe, the Middle East and South-East Asia. Before joining WFD, Emil worked for the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for nearly seven years in three different countries Macedonia, Pakistan and Iraq where he principally managed projects aimed to support the development of national parliaments. In addition, he has also worked on electoral assistance and election monitoring programmes for OSCE and UNDP.

Eszter Kirs is an associate professor of Public International Law at the Corvinus University of Budapest and the Miskolc University (Hungary) and a legal officer of the Law Enforcement Programme of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee. She was a member of a defense team at the ICTY from 2010 to 2015. She has published extensively on the topics of transitional justice and international criminal law, including the ICTY's impact on the domestic justice system of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She contributed to the Council of Europe's HELP Programme on transitional justice and human rights piloted in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Fisnik Korenica (Member, CEPS ENGAGE Fellowship) is a Senior Research Fellow with Group for Legal and Political Studies. His research focuses primarily on the field democratic governance in light of the EU's enlargement policy, the constitutional design of Kosovo institutions, state building from an internal and external perspective, and rule of law reforms. Fisnik has published several articles in international peer-reviewed journals, and two books, one with Kluwer Law International and one with Springer International. Fisnik holds an LLB from the University of Prishtina, an MA from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom, and a PhD in International Law from the Vrije Universiteit Brussels in Belgium.

Giorgio Brosio is Professor Emeritus, University of Torino, Italy. He has been professor at the Universities of Torino, Bari and Geneva. He has served as President of the Società Italiana di Economia Pubblica (Italian Public Economics Association) from 2009 to 2012 and as President of the European Public Choice Society (April 1992 - April 1993) and member of the Board of the Italian Association of Regional Economics (AISRE). His research interests focus on public choice, fiscal federalism, and public sector economics. He has worked extensively as a consultant for international institutions (IMF, World Bank, IADB, ADFB and the EU) on public sector reform and development, with emphasis on taxation, natural resources and decentralization issues. He has long record of publications, including books and articles on academic journals.

Gjergji Vurmo (Member, CEPS ENGAGE Fellowship) is currently a Programme Director and Researcher at the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) in Albania. He holds a BA Law degree from "St. Cyril and Methodius" University in Macedonia and a Master's degree in European Integration from the University of Bologna in Italy. Mr. Vurmo has over fifteen years of experience working with third sector organizations and think tanks in Albania and Macedonia. His fields of expertise include EU integration, regional security, civil society development, programme development, think tanks. He is also the author of numerous research papers, studies, and books related to these fields.

Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova is professor of Constitutional Law and Political System(s) at the University of "Ss. Cyril and Methodius". She is member and former Vice-President (2008-2012) of the Group of Independent Experts for the European Charter for Local Self-Government in the Council of Europe, as well as former member of the Venice Commission (2008-2016), and Vice - President of its Sub-Commission for Minorities. Gordana is also: UN expert for elections from 1998; member of International Correspondence Editorial Board of *Lex Localis, Journal of Local - Self Government*, Maribor, Slovenia; member of Steering Committee of South East European Law School (SEELS); member of International Editorial of "Ballote Magazine", Rio de Janeiro, Brasil; co-founder and Vice-President of CIVIS (Association of South-East European NGO-s). Her last (co)author's books are: "Civic and Uncivic Values in Macedonia" 2013, (eds) S. Ramet et al., Palgrave Macmillan", "Key Developments in Constitutionalism and Constitutional Law" 2014, (eds) L. B. Fleiner, and T. Marinkovic, ELEVEN Int. Publishing, Hague, "The Principle of Effective Legal Protection in Administrative Law, A European Comparison", (eds) Zoltan Sente and Konrad Lachmayer, Routledge, Taylor & Francis group, London and New York, 2016.

Israel Butler is Head of Advocacy at the Civil Liberties Union for Europe. From 2015-2017 he worked as a consultant on EU affairs and human rights law and policy, providing research and advocacy services to the governmental and not-for-profit sectors. Between 2012 and 2015 he was senior policy analyst on fundamental rights, justice and home affairs at the Open Society European Policy Institute in Brussels. Prior to this, he worked for three years at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna as a legal researcher and speechwriter. He began his career in academia, as a tutor in International Law and Human Rights Law at Nottingham University and later as a Lecturer at Lancaster University, covering EU Law and Human Rights Law. Israel holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Cambridge and a masters and PhD from the University of Nottingham.

Leonhard den Hertog works as a Research Fellow within the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Unit of CEPS. He focuses on the policy fields of migration, asylum and borders, external relations, the EU budget and the Rule of Law. He furthermore coordinates the CEPS 'ENGAGE' Fellowship Programme. He authors publications and studies, drafts funding applications, coordinates trainings programmes, regularly speaks at policy and academic events, acts as reviewer for academic journals, and gives his views and comments on policy developments to several media. Leonhard holds LLB and LLM degrees from Utrecht University, the Netherlands. He obtained his PhD degree within the interdisciplinary 'EXACT' programme on EU External Relations at the Universities of Cologne and of Edinburgh, focusing on the external dimension of EU migration policy. From 2014 till 2016 he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at CEPS and Maastricht University within the 'TRANSMIC' project on transnational migration, focusing in particular on policy making through funding in the EU external migration policy. In the past he also worked as an assistant for an EU project in Addis Ababa, as a guest researcher and lecturer at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest and as a research and teaching assistant on legal research methodology at the University of Leuven.

Ljubomir Danailov Frckoski (1957) is Professor at the University of "Ss. Cyril and Methodius", Faculty of law covering the area of international law and human rights, political theory and conflict resolution. Professor Frckoski is one of the most prominent Macedonian intellectuals and scholars and opinion maker. Covering his opus on the areas of research, he earned a profile as multicultural liberal. Professor Frckoski drafted the new Macedonian Constitution, was part of the team for drafting the Ohrid Framework Agreement and is an author

of a number of fundamental books and materials in the area of human rights and resolution of identity conflicts.

Malgorzata Skuleka (Member, CEPS ENGAGE Fellowship) is a lawyer and researcher at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland). Holds a Master's degree in Law from Warsaw University. Since December 2009, she has been working at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (HFHR) where she is responsible for research projects (in cooperation with among other European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights). She has carried out numerous research projects dedicated to the issues of access to justice, independency of justice, child rights protection, child-friendly justice, support system for victims of crimes and rights of persons with disabilities. In HFHR, she is also responsible for the communication strategy and advocacy regarding the situation in Poland.

Margarita Tsatsa Nikolovska is an international judge and a vice-president of Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her career reflects long professional experience in national and international judiciary. After being judge at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia from 1997 to 1998, she was elected judge to the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France by the Assembly for the period 1998-2001. She was Re-elected as a judge in the same court for a period of six years. From 2009 she is president of the citizens association Institute for Human Rights.

Marjan Nikolov (49, Member, CEPS ENGAGE Fellowship) is a Docent at the International Slavic University. He used to teach public finance at local level and financing regional development at the Integrated Business Faculty in Skopje and was teaching at the NALAS summer school on public finance management topics at local government level. He used to work at the Economic Institute of Iceland as junior economist and at Ernst & Young as junior auditor at corporate finance department. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Ljubljana, MSc in economics from the University of Reykjavik and BSc from the University of St Cyril and Methodius in Skopje. Dr Nikolov is co-founder of the independent think tank Center for economic analyses in Skopje since 2003. Dr Nikolov has worked as a consultant on various USAID, UNDP, DFID, World Bank, IMF on decentralization and balanced regional development agenda in Macedonia and Western Balkan, public administration reform, public policy analysis and public finance management topics in MENA countries. Dr Nikolov contributed with a chapter in a book "Multi level finance and the Euro crisis: Causes and effects" (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2016, Ahmad E., Bordignon M, Brosio, G. (Ed); book "Cost efficiency of municipalities: Does ethnic fragmentation matter?" (Lex Localis Press, 2013); co-author of "Efficient Delivery of Local Public Services in Ethnically Fragmented Municipalities" (Lex Localis - Journal of Local Self-Government (13(3), pp. 299-319, 2015); co-author of "Cost efficiency in Macedonian municipalities" (Lex Localis - Journal of Local Self-Government (11(3), pp. 743-775, 2015); co-author of "The quality of life and regional development in Macedonia" (Croatian economic survey (2(1), pp. 121-162, 2010). Dr Nikolov is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, international honor society for collegiate schools of business, in recognition of high scholastic achievement – University of Ljubljana Chapter, member of the Research Network on Decentralisation in South East Europe, member of the LSE-LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion in South East Europe and an Ambassador of Macedonia to the Regional Studies Association global forum for city and regional research, development, and policy: <http://www.regionalstudies.org/networks/ambassador/marjan-nikolov>

Marko Troshanovski Is President of the Skopje-based think tank - Institute for democracy "Societas Civilis" Skopje. His educational background is in political science and political communication. He obtained his BA and MA at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje and worked as an affiliated researcher at the University of Kansas and University of Groningen. He has been involved in the civil society sector for more than 15 years and his field of interest are public opinion research, communication theory and civil society. He is Fulbright Alumni and ESOMAR member.

Márton Varju is senior research fellow at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Social Sciences and senior lecturer in law at the University of Debrecen. He is the convenor of a Hungarian Academy of Sciences 'Lendület' research group. He holds a PhD in law from the University of Hull, UK. His main research interests lie in EU public law, EU economic law and market regulation, and the regulation and ethics of emerging biotechnologies. His current work focuses mainly on the legal constraints of Member State economic particularism, in particular of economic patriotism in the European Union. He is now starting to work in a new research project on comparative populism.

Massimo Bordignon is Professor of Public Economics at the Catholic University of Milan, where he used to be Director of the Department of Economics and Finance, after having directed for several years the Graduate School in Economics and Finance of Public Administration. He taught at Birmingham University, University of Bergamo, Brescia, and Venice and lectured at Uppsala University, Munich University and the College of Europe. Mr. Bordignon acted as President of the Italian Society of Public Economists. Long-time collaborator with CESifo Munich, he was member of the managing board of the International Institute of Public Finance and of the Scientific Advisory Board. Massimo Bordignon worked as a consultant for several regional, national and international institutions, in particular the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund and the Italian Treasury. He studied in the European University Institute of Florence and the Universities of Essex and Warwick, where he obtained a PhD. Massimo Bordignon is now a member of the European Fiscal Board.

Natasha Gaber-Damjanovska Prof. Natasha Gaber-Damjanovska Since 1985 worked at the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, where she became senior researcher and professor. Worked in numerous Institute team projects on politics, elections, education, public opinion, civil society issues. Engaged in preparation of state strategic documents (the Roma National Strategy, Housing Strategy, the Civil Sector Strategy), as well as evaluations and analysis. Team participation in drafting several versions of the Election Codex, the Law on Associations and Foundations, etc. Active in the civil sector since 1990, board member of the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (1991-2009), of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (2009 to present) and of the International Center for Not-for-profit Law (2010 to present). Judge at the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia since October, 2007. Languages spoken: English, Greek, French.

Petra Bárd (Member, CEPS ENGAGE Fellowship) is Senior Researcher at the National Institute of Criminology, Hungary. As Professor at ELTE School of Law and as Visiting Professor at the Central European University in Budapest she teaches inter alia EU constitutional law, EU criminal law, EU human rights law and selected issues in criminology and forensic sciences. She is also a Visiting Lecturer at other universities across Europe including Belgrade, Frankfurt and Vienna. She offers a course on European integration theories in the frame of the Master's Course in Legal Theory by the European Academy of Legal Theory. She participates in numerous professional networks dealing with the rule of law, human rights and criminal justice. She is member or advisory board member of multiple scientific societies and commissions of trust. Petra Bárd is regularly approached by international organisations on EU and domestic rule of law issues, among others she contributes to the Rule of Law Index by the World Justice Project. She is national focal point for the Council of Europe's HELP programme (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) and designs human rights training materials for judges and prosecutors. She authored and edited more than 140 pieces of publications, including several monographs. She acted as Lead Researcher or Researcher in research projects commissioned by the European Parliament, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the Committee of the Regions. Currently she is editing a volume on the relationship between the European Convention on Human Rights and the Hungarian legal system and finalizes her monograph on hate crimes.

Sergio Carrera is Senior Research Fellow and Head of Justice and Home Affairs Programme at CEPS. He is Visiting Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) at Sciences Po (France); Associate Professor/Senior Research Fellow at the Faculty of Law in Maastricht University (The Netherlands); and

Honorary Industry Professor/Senior Research Fellow at the School of Law in Queen Mary University of London (UK). His main research interests are on EU justice and home affairs (JHA) law and Area of Freedom, Security and Justice Policy, with particular focus on migration, asylum, citizenship and Schengen policies. His areas of expertise also cover EU criminal justice law and police cooperation, and their impact on data protection/privacy and the rights of the defence.

Uranija Pirovska is Executive Director of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia from May 1, 2012. As Executive Director she manages the Executive office which aims to protect, promote and advance human rights and freedoms in the country. Her previous work experience includes the long-standing work in the office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia as head of public relations and international cooperation. Besides the practical work in the field of human rights, Pirovska as a lawyer has contributed to several analysis on the situation of human rights and legislation in the country.

Vladyslav Galushko is a program manager at the Open Society Initiative for Europe, where he oversees the portfolio of organizational development grants within the Think Tank Fund for Wider Europe team. Galushko started at the Open Society Foundations when he joined the Think Tank Fund in 2011, working on institutional and core support for think tanks in Moldova, Ukraine, and the South Caucasus. Prior to joining Open Society, Galushko was an analyst with the International Crisis Group, where he conducted policy research on Islamic radicalism, labor migration, ethnic strife, and socioeconomic issues in Central Asia. Galushko has previously worked with a number of international organizations in Ukraine on election monitoring, education reform, and scholarships. His areas of interest include civil society development, state and institution building processes, and security challenges in transitioning democracies. He received a PhD in international studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

<p>Panel I: Transparency and the Rule of Law</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Marjan Nikolov (Member, Engage Fellowship)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Ms. Natasha Gaber-Damjanovska (Judge, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia) Ms. Uranija Pirovska (Executive Director, Helsinki Committee of the Republic of Macedonia) Mr. Massimo Bordignon (Member, European Fiscal Board) Mr. Giorgio Brosio (Emeritus Professor, University of Turin)</p>	<p>Panel II: Criminal justice and mutual trust in the Western Balkans and the EU</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Sergio Carrera (CEPS)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Ms. Gordana Siljanovska Davkova (Professor, Constitutional Law and Political System, University of "Ss. Cyril and Methodius") Ms. Eszter Kirs (Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest / Legal Officer, Law Enforcement Programme, Hungarian Helsinki Committee) Mr. Marton Varju (Researcher, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Legal Studies) Mr. Fisnik Korenica (Member, Engage Fellowship) Faculty, University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius)</p>
<p>Panel III: Balkan Spring – Can the EU end the Rule of Law Stalemate?</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Gjergji Vurmo (Member, Engage Fellowship)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Blerim Reka (SEE University, Tetovo) Mr. Ljubomir Danailov Frckoski (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje) Ms. Besa Arifi (SEE University, Tetovo) Mr. Vladyslav Galushko (Open Society, Budapest)</p>	<p>Panel IV: Civil society responses to Rule of Law crisis and democratic backsliding</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Ms. Małgorzata Szuleka (Member, Engage Fellowship)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Israel Butler (Head of Advocacy, Civil Liberties Union for Europe) Mr. Emil Atanasovski (WFD Regional program, Belgrade) Mr. Aleksandar Jovanoski (European Policy Institute, Skopje) Mr. Marko Trosanovski (Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis", Skopje) Ms. Petra Bard (Member, Engage Fellowship)</p>