

ANDRÁSSY UNIVERSITÄT BUDAPEST

Andrássy Forum for Western Balkan Studies

The Andrássy Forum for Western Balkan Studies was established in 2014 as an academic platform to enhance the academic research and to initiate research cooperation in the area of Western Balkan Studies. The aim of the forum is to bring together the expertise from researchers and academics from the Visegrád states (V4), Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and from the Western Balkan region.

The project has three main research focuses: First of all, it addresses questions of political transformation and processes of EU-integration of the Western Balkan states and Croatia. A comparative analysis of the cooperation and integration experiences of the Visegrád states and Western Balkan states should shade light on the research question if the V4-states can be a model for the Western Balkan region. Secondly, another focus is on the challenges and functions of regional cooperation in the region of Central- and Southeast Europe and thirdly, socio-cultural, economic and political factors are analysed, which might impede democratization, hence EU- approximation in the West Balkan states.

Once a year, the Andrássy Forum for Western Balkan Studies organises a conference or a workshop to foster the exchange among researchers and academics. Additionally, the forum aims to establish teaching and research cooperation with universities in the area.

<u>The activities in the first year of its existence</u> were financed by the *International Visegrád Fund* and the *Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Budapest.* Currently, the forum is looking at funding possibilities and partnership opportunities.

Further information of the Forum's activities: <u>http://www.andrassyuni.eu/projekt/andrassy-forum-for-western-balkan-studies.html</u>

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