



Centre for the Research on Democracy and the Western Balkan Studies
at the Andrassy University Budapest

CONFERENCE

Political Discourse on the Migrant Crisis in the EU and Western Balkans

ORT: ANDRÁSSY UNIVERSITY BUDAPEST, ANDRÁSSY-SAAL
ZEIT: WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2016, START AT 09 AM
ANMELDUNG: [ONLINE](#)
LANGUAGE: ENGLISCH

This conference attempts to bring together experts and civil society organisations to analyse the impact of the „refugee crisis“ on the political discourse of the countries within the EU and the „Balkan Route“-countries. Hence, a focus will be put on the Western Balkan region, which additionally is confronted with a number of social, political and security issues in relation to the huge numbers of unregistered refugees traveling through their territories. The countries, which due to structural and financial limitations, might be extremely challenged to cope with the accommodation and care of refugees, are faced with the dilemma that some asylum seekers are not accepted in their preferred country of destination and are returned to the Western Balkan states. In relation to the EU member states, bordering onto the region of the Western Balkans, it is of utmost importance to prevent a de-stabilisation of the region in social and political terms and to preserve the social cohesion. Therefore, the question what the consequences of the migrant issue on the political system of the countries in the Western Balkans and in the EU and EU-member states in general are, is a pressing and valid one.

What the conference is going to look at is the political discourse on the level of politicians, as well as in the wider public sphere on the migrant issues. Questions of how the historical background, past experiences, and the respective political context affected the discourse, will be addressed. How and in what way was the broader public confronted with the migrants and how was that experience perceived? How was the migrant issue used by whom and to achieve what? What arguments and claims were made in relation to the refugee situation?

09.00 – 09.30 **WELCOME**

09.30 – 11.00 **PANEL 1**

PERSPECTIVE OF COUNTRIES ON THE MIGRANT ROUTE (WESTBALKAN, CROATIA AND HUNGARY)

- Nenad Koprivica (Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, Montenegro): *Montenegro and the asylum system (tbc)*
- Senada Šelo Šabić (Institut for Development and International Relations, Zagreb): Croatia (tbc)
- Lura Pollozhani (University of Graz): *The media discourse on migrants/refugees in Macedonia* (co-authored paper with Dane Taleski)
- Endre Sik (ELTE University/Hungarian Academy of Sciences): *The state driven discourse of the refugee issue in contemporary Hungary"?*

11.30 – 13.00 **PANEL 2**

PERSPECTIVE OF RECEIPT COUNTRIES (GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWEDEN AND THE UK)

- Oliver Gruber (University Vienna, Austria): *„Refugees (not) welcome“. Asylum discourse and policy in Austria in the wake of the current refugee crisis*
- Gregg Bucken-Knapp (University Gothenburg, Sweden): *The dynamics of the Swedish response to the migration crisis (tbc)*
- Birte Fähnrich (Zeppelin University, Germany): *Between compassion, responsibility and German Angst - how the migrant crisis is framed in German political talk shows" (co-authored paper with Dennis Lichtenstein, Jenny Ritter)*
- Umut Korkut (Glasgow Caledonian University): *The public worries before the elite! Brexit in the absence of migration debate*

14.00 – 16.00 **PANEL 3**

CIVIL SOCIETIES: PERCEPTION AND REALITIES OF THE MIGRANT CRISIS

- MIGSZOL Migration Solidarity Group of Hungary
- Rozi Gombas: Migration Aid Hungary
- NGO Legis, Macedonia
- Ivan Lalic: Refugee Aid Miksalište, Serbia

16.30 – 18.00 **ROUND TABLE**

WORKING TOGETHER: ACADEMIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY

- Anna Faustmann, Danube University Krems, Austria
- Constanze Jeitler, CEU helps
- Melani Barlai netPOL,AUB / Ellen Bos AUB (tbc): Vokskabine Project

ORGANISATION

Dr. Christina Griessler, christina.griessler@andrassyuni.hu

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