

BIOGRAPHIES OF PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNICATING EUROPE SEMINAR: POLISH PERSPECTIVES ON ENLARGEMENT

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Aleksander Biberaj is an MP for the Democratic Party. He is a member of the Parliamentary Commission on Economy and Finances and alternate member of the Parliamentary Commission on European Integration. He has also served as head of the Albanian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) until January 2009. A telecoms expert by profession, he was Director of the Albanian Fibre Backbone project for the Albanian-American Enterprises Trust, and a specialist for Altelecom from 1997 to 2003. He was Deputy Director General of Albanian Telecom, and Chairman of the Technical Board from 1994 to 1997. He was educated at the Polytechnic University of Tirana from 1985 to 1990.

Ben Blushi is currently is a Member of Parliament of the Albanian Socialist Party for Korça district. He is a member of the Parliamentary Commission on National Security. His political career includes stints as Minister of Education and Science from 2001-2002 and as Minister of Local Government and Decentralisation from 2002-2005. He also served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1999-2000. In 1999 he was Spokesman and adviser to Prime Minister Fatos Nano. In the 1990s he was editor-in-chief of the newspaper “Koha Jonë”. In April 2008, Ben Blushi published his first novel “Të jetosh në ishull” (Living on an Island), which sold over 30,000 copies in the first few months, a record for Albania. Ben Blushi’s 400-page novel offers the reader a panorama of Albanian history under the Ottoman Empire giving quite a controversial treatment of the country’s Islamization. Ben Blushi studied at the University of Tirana, graduating in Albanian language and literature.

Fatmir Curri is a project coordinator and one of the key experts at the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation. Mr. Curri is the co author of policy papers and analyses on European integration. He is a lecturer at the Kosovo School for European Integration. Fatmir Curri also lectures and trains youth CSOs in Kosovo on EU enlargement policy and the Stabilization and Association Process. Fatmir Curri served previously as a senior officer for the Stabilization and Association Process Tracking Mechanism at the Agency for European Integration. He also did an internship at the European Parliament in Brussels. He has also worked within the OSCE mission in Kosovo and occupied various positions at international NGOs working in Pristina. He was a junior economic researcher with the Riinvest Institute working on an early warning project mainly covering SMEs. Fatmir Curri has a degree in Banking and Finances from the Faculty of Economics, University of Pristina, and holds a Master in European Studies from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. He has also taken part in an intensive seminar on European affairs at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

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Albert Gajo is Albania's Deputy Minister of European Integration and an expert economist. Previously, he was Executive Director of the Research and Development Centre, a non-profit organisation which helps public institutions and the business community draft policies to encourage private sector development. From 1998 to 2002, he was a research fellow and lecturer at Maastricht University in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, where he specialised in public finances and the management of resources in transition economies. From 1992 to 1997, he was economic advisor to the then Albanian Prime Minister.

Jovan Jovanović has been Programme Officer at the Balkan Trust for Democracy in Belgrade since January 2007. For almost three years he was a foreign policy advisor to two consecutive Serbian Deputy Prime Ministers in charge of European Integration. His professional experiences also include top managerial positions at twin Internet oriented organizations; FreeSerbia/FS-systems d.o.o. He was previously a research assistant at the Institute for European Studies in Belgrade. After the fall of the Milosevic regime, Jovan Jovanović also actively participated in re-establishing the Fulbright Alumni Association of Serbia and Montenegro and served as a member of its Managing Board for two consecutive terms – as well as President of the Supervisory Board. He received his M.A. in International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs in 2000 through the Ron Brown Fellowship for young leaders from Central and South Eastern Europe. While in the United States, he completed an internship at the Congressional Research Service's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Division in Washington, DC. Jovan Jovanović received his B.A. in International Affairs at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Belgrade in 1995. jjovanovic@gmfus.org

Borjan Jovanovski is a leading Macedonian journalist. He is editor and presenter of the TV show "Evrozoom" - "Zoom on Europe" a top-rated programme broadcast on two TV channels in Macedonia. "Evrozoom" aims to open the eyes of the Macedonian audience to the wider European scene. He has worked as a journalist at A1 TV (the first private and independent TV station in Macedonia), reporting on topics related to the stability of South East Europe since 1995. Borjan Jovanovski was permanent Brussels correspondent for A1 TV from 1996 to 2000. He has also served as press adviser to the late President Boris Trajkovski. He is currently leading on the initiative to foster co-operation between top TV journalists in South East Europe on stories about European integration. borjan@newmoment.com.mk

Nedeljko Masleša is Assistant Director of the Directorate of European Integration in Sarajevo. He was worked closely with the Polish Office of the Committee on European Integration. He was posted as Ambassador to Israel (and non-resident Ambassador to Cyprus) from 2003 to 2008. He was Assistant Director Directorate of European Integration from April 2003 – February 2004. He served as Assistant Minister at the Ministry for European Integration from 2000-2003. He was Director of "Naprijed", a privatization investment fund in 2000. From 1994 to 2000 he was a property manager in Vancouver, Canada. He was awarded his post-graduate and first degree by the Faculty of Economics at the University in Sarajevo.

Srdan Majstorović is Deputy Director of the European Integration Office of Serbia. He has also served as Head of the Department for Communications and Relations with EU institutions. In 2003/04 he attended a post-graduate course on European integration and regionalism organised by Karl-Franzens-University Graz, the European Academy Bolzano

and the Luxembourg European Institute for Public Administration. He is the author of numerous articles and runs a TV show dealing with European integration issues.

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Malinka Ristevska-Jordanova, as State Counsellor at the Macedonian Government's Secretariat for European Affairs, has been co-ordinating Macedonia's pre-accession policies. She is the co-chair of the Stabilisation and Association Committee: EU - Republic of Macedonia. She has also been active in regional co-operation, promoting ownership and co-operation in the EU integration process. Malinka Ristevska-Jordanova has previously worked in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Malinka.Jordanova@sep.gov.mk

as State Counsellor at the Macedonian Government's Secretariat for European Affairs, is the most senior public official co-ordinating Macedonia's pre-accession policies. She works directly with Ivica Bocevski, the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for European Affairs. Malinka Ristevska-Jordanova has previously worked as the Secretary General of the European Movement in Macedonia.

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Hedvig Morvai-Horvat has been Executive Director for the European Fund for the Balkans since 2007. Prior to this, she was director of the Citizens' Pact for South Eastern Europe, a regional initiative focused on cross border and regional cooperation of local communities and NGOs in South East Europe. She began her civil activism in 1997 as a founder and vice president of the Hungarian Student Association of Vojvodina, later coordinating the Carpathian Information Exchange Network – AGORA and engaging in the EXIT festival team. In 2006 she was awarded the Winning Freedom Award by the Belgrade-based Maja Marsicevic – Tasic Foundation.

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Aleksandar Pejović is Director of the EU Directorate of the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has also been a Counsellor in the Multilateral Department, where he was Head of the UN Unit and of the Regional Initiatives Unit. He also worked in the Bilateral Department (Western Europe), and in Montenegro's Mission to Slovenia. He joined the Ministry in 2000. Aleksandar Pejović has an MA in Political Science and Public Administration from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Adnan Rondić is the editor and presenter of a documentary programme and a special news programme at the independent TV station NTV Hayat in Sarajevo. He has worked there since February 1992 as journalist, presenter and editor. He was the author and the host of the political talk-show Step ("Korak"), which ran for 8 years until December 2007. The programme hosted around 1,500 interviewees, including senior Bosnian and foreign officials, representatives of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, religious officials, and regular Bosnian citizens. From 1995 and 2000, he was the chief executive editor of NTV Hayat's news service. In addition, he has been working as a reporter for Voice of America since 2001. He graduated from the Department of Classical Journalism and the Department of Business Communication at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo. He is currently enrolled in the post-graduate programme Diplomacy in the Contemporary World at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo.

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Goran Rotim is a senior journalist at Croatian public TV (HTV). He is currently the anchor and editor of the weekly foreign-politics programme "Parallel". He was Deputy Editor in

Chief of HTV News Programmes; as a senior manager he was responsible for 320 journalists and more than 20 shows from 2004 to 2007. He was also co-editor of the main news programme “Dnevnik” from 2006 to 2007. He has made documentary films, including “Hungary - a Stew for Europe” and “Czech-the Process”, and co-authored the film “Austria - the Secret of the Danube Mainstream”. In 1994-96 he was editor and anchor of the daily news-magazine “Slikom na sliku”, which featured foreign TV coverage and Croatian politics. In 1991-1992 he was a war reporter in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was also Secretary General of the Atlantic Group (a multinational corporation based in Croatia), responsible for external and internal communications and PR from 2007 to June 2008. From 2000 to 2001 he was a Spokesman at the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; from 1999 to 2000 he was Consul-Counsellor at the Croatian Consulate-General in Subotica, Serbia, his birthtown.

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Agneza Rusi is Director of the EU Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Skopje. She is currently Deputy Chief Negotiator for visa *liberalisation* with the EU. She was Head of the negotiation team on visa *facilitation* with the EU. Agneza Rusi entered the diplomatic service in 1996. She served as Second Secretary in the Macedonian Mission to the EU in Brussels from 1999 to 2003, and as Deputy Head of the EU Department in Skopje from 2003 to 2006. She graduated at the Faculty of Economics in Skopje and holds an MA in International Politics from CERIS in Brussels.

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Edin Šehić has been head of the EU Section at the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2006. He is also a member of the committee on the Interim Trade Agreement and the Ministry's senior programming officer for the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). He is also a member of working groups on the IPA and BiH's European Integration Strategy. From 1999-2004 he was Counsellor at the Ministry. He was head (*a.i.*) of BiH's Consulate in Oslo for three years from 1996, the year he joined the Ministry. Edin Šehić was head of State Protocol from 1994-1996. He was a senior expert at the Ministry of Defense from 1993-4. In 1985-1992 he worked as Assistant Marketing Director for North Africa at Energoinvest-Energocommerce in Sarajevo, where he was initially as a senior expert responsible for foreign investment. Edin Šehić has an economics degree from the School of Economics at Sarajevo University.

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Mentor Shala is programme editor and presenter of the programme “Europe closer” (Europa më afër) on Kosovo public TV, Radio Television Kosovo. He is also Head of News. He has edited the main TV news for a year. His previous jobs at RTK include Assistant Chief Editor and reporter. He presented the investigative show Tema for six months and moderated TV debates on ethnic issues. He has also edited INFO News and BLIC News. Before joining RTK he was political editor of the daily newspaper “Epoka e re” in 2000. In autumn 1999 he reported from Kosovo on a daily basis for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. He is President of the Association of Professional Journalists, which is a member of the International Federation of Journalists.

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Bojana Stanišić is Executive Director and one of the founders of “Center for Euro-Atlantic Politics”, an NGO in Podgorica (www.evropskireporter.com). She is a journalist and news editor for TV “Vijesti” and editor and presenter of “Euroscope”, a TV show which reports on

European integration and Montenegro. She worked as the local producer of “Wild Beauty”, a documentary film co-produced by ESI and the Austrian production company Pre TV (part of a series of ten documentaries on South East Europe). Bojana Stanišić also worked for five years as a journalist for the daily newspaper "Dan", covering topics related to the European integration process. She edited the "Dan in Europe" pages. She is a Montenegrin contributor for BIRN (the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network) and for the international on-line publication Balkan Insight (www.birn.eu.com). In May 2007 she was awarded a Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence. She studied at the University of Montenegro and took the advanced level BIRN journalism training programme.

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Boris Vujčić is Croatia’s Deputy Chief EU negotiator and Deputy Governor of the Croatian National Bank. His fields of expertise are macroeconomics, international finance and labour economics. Boris Vujčić has also been external collaborator with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and a consultant to the European Commission. He is a Professor at the University of Zagreb, where he was awarded his three economics degrees: BA, MA, and Ph.D.

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Ana Vukadinovic has been Head of the Secretariat for European Integration in Podgorica since December 2006. She is responsible for the co-ordination and supervision of the EU association and accession process, preparing key documents, co-ordinating inter-ministry preparations for the negotiations and monitoring the implementation process, and co-operating with EU institutions and EU Member States. She worked as an adviser in the Foreign Ministry from 1999 to 2000; in 1998-99 she worked as a media monitor for the OSCE and as a media analyst for a range of outlets, including, ZDF, BBC, and Reuters. Ana Vukadinovic was awarded a MSc in International Business Management by the School of Management at the University of Surrey in 2005, and a BSc in Financial and Bank Management by the Economics Faculty at the University of Montenegro in 1999.