



Mediterranean Programme
10th Mediterranean Research Meeting

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Workshop 1

***Eu Enlargement To South Eastern Europe:
Its Impact On Interethnic Relations In The Region***

directed by

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Workshop abstract

The enlargement of the EU to South Eastern Europe (so far, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania) had far reaching mobilizing and disciplining impacts on the local economic, political and cultural processes. Following the requirements for membership in the EU, the local actors had to take a constructive and tolerant attitude towards interethnic relations inside of their countries and in the international context. In various ways, the same mobilizing and disciplining effects might be seen in the activities of the present day EU candidate countries (Turkey, Croatia, Macedonia). Since all other societies from the Western Balkans are interested in the membership in the European Union, they are also under the pressure to develop and apply constructive and tolerant approaches to their internal and international ethnic problems. What are the EU mechanisms promoting these policies? What are the local conditions for achieving this end in particular South East European societies? To what extent are the EU member states and EU candidate countries from South Eastern Europe already successful in this respect? What are the prospects of the Western Balkan countries for managing their interethnic problems successfully? The questions refer to relevant and difficult problem situations both in terms of complex and often contradictory social relationships and processes and in terms of profound challenges to social sciences and decision-makers. The guiding intention of the organizers is to prepare a state-of-the-art scientific analysis of the current interethnic processes in South Eastern Europe together with policy relevant recommendations.

Workshop description

Aims of the Workshop

The Workshop will be focused on the achievement of:

- *Identification*
 - of domestic economic, political and cultural changes which have had impact on the interethnic relations in the South East European countries from 2004 on (after the first wave of enlargement of the European Union to the East);
 - of domestic changes in interethnic relations in the South East European countries after 2004;
 - of changes in international constellations influencing interethnic relations in South Eastern Europe after 2004;
 - of domestic political decisions having significantly influenced interethnic relations in South East European societies after 2004;
 - of international political decisions having significantly influenced interethnic relations in South East European societies after 2004;
- *Prognostication*
 - of domestic economic, political and cultural processes which might influence interethnic relations in South East European countries in the coming 5 years after 2008;
 - of international economic, political and cultural processes which might influence interethnic relations in particular South East European countries in the coming 5 years after 2008;
 - of regional (South East European, European) and global processes which might influence the ethnic dimension of international relations in the area of South Eastern Europe;
- *Suggestions*
 - for managing domestic interethnic relations in South East European countries in the coming 5 years after 2008;
 - for managing the ethnic dimension of international relations in South Eastern Europe in the coming 5 years after 2008.

Organizational Framework of the Workshop

Applications for participation in the Workshop are expected till 01. September on the website <http://www.eui.eu/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mrm2009/>.

Depending on the topics and the quality of the proposed papers, the Workshop will be implemented in six Sessions with the following preliminary titles:

- Domestic factors for recent changes of interethnic relations in South Eastern Europe (two sessions, 26 March 2009, 09:00-13:00h);
- International factors for recent changes of interethnic relations in South Eastern Europe (two sessions, 26 March 2009, 14:30 -17:30h)
- Prospects for development of interethnic relations in South Eastern Europe (27 March 2009, 09:00-11:00 h)
- Potentials for better management of interethnic relations in South Eastern Europe (27 March 2009, 11:30-13:00h)

Participants in the Workshop

- Social scientists from the following countries are particularly encouraged to submit Abstracts for presentation of papers at the Workshop: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.
- Social scientists from outside the region of South Eastern Europe can also submit Abstracts for presentation of papers at the Workshop;
- 20 proposals for presentation of papers will be approved on the basis of the following criteria:
 - Scientific and practical relevance of the issues suggested for discussion in the Abstract of the paper proposed to be presented at the Workshop;
 - Relevance of the research questions or hypotheses as indicated in the Abstract;
 - Relevance of the information sources as indicated in the Abstract;
 - The degree to which the suggested paper fits to the composition of the Workshop (proposed papers from individual countries, papers on specific topics, gender characteristics of the authors, etc.).

Outcome of the Workshop

The desirable outcome of the Workshop will be a systematic analytical overview on achievements and possibly failures in managing interethnic relations in South Eastern Europe in the context of the enlargement of the European Union to South Eastern Europe. This overview will be presented in an international publication. It might be a book volume or a thematic collection published in an international journal.