

## EU INTEGRATION AND MINORITY PROTECTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: MAPPING THE WAY AHEAD

*20-21 November 2014 – Sarajevo*  
*Venue: Hotel Radon Plaza*

17.00 - 19:00: **Keynote lecture and panel discussion**

### *Speakers*

Mr. Jakub FINCI, President of Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Mr. Jan SNAIDAUF, Head of Political and Economic Section, Delegation of  
the European Union to Bosnia to Herzegovina

09.30 – 11.00: **Effects of the EU Integration Process on  
Democratization in Enlargement Countries: The Issue of Minority  
Protection**

### *Speakers*

Dr. Marko KMEZIC, University of Graz  
Dr. Neven ANDJELIC, Regent's University London  
Ms. Lejla SOMUN-KRUPALIJA, Association CRVENA/RED  
Ms. Elitsa KORTENSKA, Leiden University, Ph.D. Researcher

### *ISSUES FOR DEBATE:*

- *Is the EU making use of its leverage in the accession process, and if so, to what extent? What are the effects and results of the EU integration process on the issue of minority protection?*
- *What are the main challenges for the EU in demanding the strengthening of the minority rights protection in the Western Balkans?*
- *How can minority protection be applied consistently, given: the lack of unified international and EU standards, which includes no consensus around the definition a minority group; the different post-conflict legacies in the region; and the varied political sensitivities around the issue?*
- *How should the EU mainstream protection of minority rights? How can EU progress monitoring and benchmarking improve and adapt?*

11.00 – 11.30: COFFEE BREAK

**THURSDAY**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**FRIDAY**  
**21<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

## 11.30 – 13.00: **EU Conditionality: Limitations and Opportunities?**

### **Speakers**

Prof. Dr Meltem MÜFTÜLER-BAC, Sabanci University

Dr. Bojan BILIC, University of Amsterdam

Dr. Simonida KACARSKA, European Policy Institute – Skopje

### *ISSUES FOR DEBATE:*

- *What are the factors determining the effects of EU conditionality in promoting minority rights protection?*
- *If the legal framework for minority rights protection is in place, what are the main reasons for the slow pace of implementation? What can the EU do to increase implementation and ownership of reforms by Western Balkan governments?*
- *How are EU strategies and their impacts different for different types of minorities, e.g. between constitutionally defined national minorities, Roma, and LGBTI individuals?*
- *How can domestic stakeholders make the most of EU assistance for enhancing minority rights in Western Balkan countries?*

13.00 – 14.30: LUNCH

## 14.30 – 16.00: **Acting Upon Limitations and Opportunities: Civil Society and Minority Protection**

### **Speakers**

Mr. Nadir REDZEPI, Open Society Foundation

Ms. Danica ILIC, MA, Media Diversity Institute – London

Mr. Adriatic HASANTARI, Roma Active Albania

### *ISSUES FOR DEBATE:*

- *Is it important to mainstream minority issues in the media? If so, how can this be achieved?*
- *How should capacities for sufficient monitoring of implementation at the local level be strengthened?*
- *How can possibilities for regional exchange, cooperation, and learning for addressing remaining post-conflict issues/grievances or neglected sections of traditional minorities (e.g. in Eastern Serbia) be enhanced?*
- *Sharing examples of best practice from activist perspectives working on Roma and LGBTI issues.*

16.00 – 16.30: **Concluding remarks**

16:30 – 17.00: **Media and policy briefing**

