



# SÜDOSTEUROPA- GESELLSCHAFT

supported by



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa  
Gefördert durch Deutschland  
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe  
Sponsored by Germany

## II. International Workshop

# Shaping the Future in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Civil Society after the October 2012 local elections. Freising (Germany), 16 – 17 November, 2012

### Program

(as of 6 November 2012)

#### Conference venue

**Munich Airport Marriott Hotel**  
**Alois-Steinecker-Str. 20**  
**85354 Freising**  
Phone +49-8161-9660

#### Conference Committee

**Petra Bläss-Rafajlovski**, former Vice-President of German Bundestag, Berlin, Member of the Board Southeast Europe Association; Berlin

**Tobias Flessenkemper**, German Institute for International and Security Affairs; Member of the Board Southeast Europe Association; Berlin

**Markus Koller**, Ruhr-University Bochum; Member of the Board Southeast Europe Association; Bochum

**Johanna Deimel**, Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

**Hansjörg Brey**, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

#### Accommodation

**Munich Airport Marriott Hotel**  
**Alois-Steinecker-Str. 20**  
**85354 Freising**

#### Conference language    English

The workshop will take place under **Chatham House Rules** in order to facilitate an unrestricted and open exchange of views and ideas.

### **Purpose of the Workshop**

The year 2012 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since the end of the war in 1995, the peace and stabilization process has made visible progress. The opening of a perspective for EU membership in the early 2000s has contributed to limited reforms. The introduction of a visa-free travel regime to the Schengen area in 2010 has helped to facilitate people-to-people contacts, including of civil society aspects.

Despite these positive developments, many citizens and observers consider the state and the society to remain in a situation of protracted crisis. The effects of the European debt and growth crisis have further contributed to a widely held pessimism. The failure of elites to generate reforms, growth and credible efforts on the way to EU membership further darkens the picture.

In October 2012 municipal elections will be held throughout the country. The local level remains the key area for the work of the civil society sector given that their influence at state or entity level seems to be rather marginal and often dominated by donor-driven policy discourses. At the same time the municipal level offers space for experimentation, emancipation of minorities and resistance as shown by recent events. It is also at the local level where EU integration can take place, may it be through youth and other exchange programs, twinning, pilot projects in the social field or for the protection of the environment. These initiatives can help to familiarize society with EU standards and their implementation.

Following-on to the workshop held in autumn 2009, this workshop will serve as stock-taking exercise where participants can reconnect to their discussion three years ago, and discuss their state of integration into European NGO/CSO networks.

The purpose of this second workshop is to continue this dialogue by bringing together - inter alia - members and representatives of civil society organizations, think tanks, journalists, political parties and international experts. The workshop will be held in Germany under Chatham House Rules in order to facilitate an open and candid exchange of views and ideas.

### **Issues for Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The final list of issues to be discussed will depend on the participants and shall reflect the preferences and priorities of their organizations. As a preliminary set of issues the following topics are proposed:

- current political situation
- review of the EU integration process
- domestic agenda-setting by civil society
- cooperation in European structures

<b>Friday, 16 November 2012</b>
---------------------------------

Afternoon	Arrival of participants
17:00 hrs	Registration
<b><u>17:30 hrs</u></b>	<p><b><u>Welcome and introduction</u></b></p> <p><b>Petra Bläss-Rafajlovski</b>, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association, Berlin</p> <p><b>Tobias Flessenkemper</b>, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association; Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin</p> <p><b>Markus Koller</b>, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association; Ruhr University Bochum</p>
<b><u>18:00 hrs</u></b>	<p><b>KEYNOTE</b></p> <p><b><i>“Youth and Civil Society in Local and Federal Decision Making Processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina”</i></b></p> <p><b>Damir Mašić</b>, Minister for Education and Science of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo</p>
<b><u>18:30 hrs</u></b>	<p><b><u>Panel I – After the municipal elections - the current political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina</u></b></p>
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Petra Bläss-Rafajlovski</b> , Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association, Berlin
<b>Rapporteur:</b>	<b>Johanna Deimel</b> , Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich
	<i>We kindly ask to provide us with critical assessments as a kick-off for discussion (approx. of 5 – 10 minutes each):</i>
	<p><b>Srećko Latal</b>, Analyst, International Crisis Group office in Sarajevo</p> <p><b>Andreas Ernst</b>, Correspondent, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Belgrade</p> <p><b>Arijana Aganović</b>, Programme Manager, Sarajevo Open Centre, Sarajevo</p>
	<b><u>Proposed issues for discussion</u></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“municipalization” of the country, advantages for small communities and municipalities</i></li> <li>• <i>limits of current local politic in Bosnia and Herzegovina</i></li> <li>• <i>20 years after the war, why is Bosnia in such a deep economic crisis?</i></li> <li>• <i>employment / unemployment (critical view on it), connected with the education policy / student mobility and the opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>the role of media in 2012 elections</i></li> <li>• <i>civil society and constitutional reforms – State level, Federation BiH reform</i></li> <li>• <i>civil society, the upcoming census and the way to the general elections in 2014</i></li> </ul>
<b>20:00 hrs</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

<b>Saturday, 17 November 2012</b>
-----------------------------------

**09:30 hrs**                      **Panel II – Where does Bosnia and Herzegovina stand in EU accession?**

**Chair:**                              **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association; SWP; Berlin

**Rapporteur:**                      **Hansjörg Brey**, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

*We kindly ask to provide us with critical assessments as a kick-off for discussion (approx. of 5 – 10 minutes each):*

**Zoran-Matija Kulundžić**, President of the Foreign Policy Initiative Assembly, Sarajevo

**Srdjan Mazalica**, MP, Republic of Srpska National Assembly, Banja Luka

**Alida Vračić**, Executive Director, Think Tank POPULARI, Sarajevo

Proposed issues for discussion

- *public discourse and information about the EU*
- *mechanisms of coordination (State, Entity, Cantons) and EU integration*
- *continuation of technical support to fulfil criteria for EU-membership*
- *rule of law*
- *role of international community in BiH*
- *EU Integration process and the impact of Croatia's accession*
- *recall of the institutional process*
- *view of political party representatives*
- *sectoral approaches*

11:00 hrs                              **Coffee Break**

**11:30 hrs**                              **Panel III – Do we care? – Civil society and the EU integration process**

**Chair:**                                      **Franz-Lothar Altmann**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association; University Bucharest; Munich

**Rapporteur:**                              **Martin Weiss**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association; Berlin

*We kindly ask to provide us with critical assessments as a kick-off for discussion (approx. of 5 – 10 minutes each):*

**Goran Bubalo**, Project Director, Catholic Relief Services / Network for Building Peace, Sarajevo

**Darko Brkan**, CEO, Zašto ne, Sarajevo

**Lejla Turčilo**, Vice Dean Faculty of Political Science, Sarajevo

**Bojan Bajić**, Executive Director Youth Center LUNA, Rudo

Proposed issues for discussion

- *the role of media*
- *participation in EU programs*

- *regional cooperation and mobility*
- *EU, Turkey and Russia as partners*
- *limits of current local politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- *is EU supporting civil society, or is this support only a fake?*
- *why is the international community responsible to Bosnian civil society*
- *EU engagement and civil society: why it doesn't work?*
- *think Tanks (NGOs) and the role in policy making*
- *structured dialogue: civil society, government and international community*
- *"inside the BIH institutions dealing with the EU matters" Critical view on their efficiency*

13:00 hrs

**Lunch**

**14:30 hrs**

**Panel IV - How can we influence the EU agenda from below?**

**Chair:**

**Markus Koller**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

**Rapporteur:**

**Adelheid Wölfel**, Correspondent South Eastern Europe, Der Standard, Vienna

*We kindly ask to provide us with critical assessments as a kick-off for discussion (approx. of 5 – 10 minutes each):*

**Aida Daidžić**, CEO, BISER International, et al, Sarajevo

**Dražana Lepir**, President, Civil Association Oštra Nula, Banja Luka

**Aldjana Okerić**, Director, Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Sarajevo Office

**Marijana Dinek**, Executive Director, Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative Foundation, Sarajevo

Proposed issues for discussion

- *policy and programming processes*
- *non-governmental organizations versus associate life*
- *legitimacy and internal governance to strengthen advocacy and impact*
- *frameworks for participation in policy-making*
- *youth and social policies*
- *the role of the municipal level in implementing EU policies*
- *civil society and politics: is influence possible?*
- *experience in women's empowerment in politics and economy.*
- *youth participation in democratic process*
- *establishing and strengthening rule of law and justice*
- *importance of The CSOs in the emerging democratic societies.*
- *role of media in promotion of EU integrations*
- *exchange of positive examples from towns and municipalities of EU*

- *supporting projects for education of citizens about the possibilities and functioning of local authorities*
- *“talking concrete” EU –picking things that matter to all, household items (rubbish, food, etc.)*

16:00 hrs **Coffee Break**

**16:30 hrs** **Panel V: The Way Ahead**

**Chaired by:** **Hansjörg Brey**, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

**Rapporteur:** **Daniela Knodt**, Intern, Southeast Europe Association, Munich  
*open discussion*

**Proposed issues for discussion**

- *avenues of influence in the multi-level European integration process*
- *cooperation within the civil society sector*
- *communication with policy-makers*
- *strength of the civil society and civil society networks*
- *networking and NGO-competition*
- *engaging policymakers and the media in dialogue – ways and strategies of assuring accountability*
- *local interests: “save the park” , “save the castle” as recent cases of fights for public space as a way to unite citizens, build “a critical mass” and find out common ground on a municipal level.*
- *role of women in creating alternative models in Region, networking, etc.*
- *shaping the Future of the Dialogue Project on BiH*

**18:00 hrs** **Evaluation, feed-back and end of the workshop**

**Chaired by:** **Petra Bläss-Rafajlovski; Tobias Flessenkemper; Markus Koller**

20:00 hrs **Dinner**

<b>Sunday, 18 November 2012</b>
---------------------------------

**Departure of participants**

END

**Conference secretariat:** Ms Gudrun Kuhlmann  
Ms Daniela Knodt