



## Call for Papers – RRPP Annual Conference 2015

### "Social, Political and Economic Change in the Western Balkans"

Interested young researchers and scholars are invited to apply to participate in the **RRPP Annual Conference** that will take place in **Ohrid, Macedonia, from 28-29 May 2015**.

Main objectives of the conference are:

- To discuss current challenges, ambivalences and prospects for the transformation process of the Western Balkan states and societies;
- To exploit potential areas and opportunities to more effectively influence policy development and policy making, based on viable scientific research results;
- To provide a forum for researchers dealing with the region to network, exchange and discuss their research projects and results.

#### Eligible Candidates

- **PhD students and recent PhD graduates (2011 and later)** dealing with the Western Balkans, eager to present and discuss their research projects with colleagues from the region and beyond (especially current research results) that relate to our general topic "**Social, Political and Economic Change in the Western Balkans**".
- Submitted applications shall contain a social science perspective, apply scientific theoretical concepts and focus on one of the following priority areas:

**1) Governance and decentralization** with focus on prerequisites for "good governance" and democratization "from below"; rule of law, corruption, transparency of public institutions, the role of external actors in promoting "good governance"; constitutions and political practice; democratic accountability and responsiveness of local (and central) government; legitimacy of political institutions; local participation opportunities for citizens; political and administrative decentralisation and their relation to economic development; social and economic cross-border relations in the border regions; central state and local administration (financial flows); horizontal cooperation between local/regional governments; formation of local identities; regionalisation as a tool for political autonomy of minorities; political party organisations and local governance; the role of local media; models of decentralisation and regionalisation and the European accession process;

**2) Migration** with the particular attention to return, circular migration and political or economic participation (of returnees); perceptions of migrants and diasporas; media coverage of migration issues and policies; internal and international migration; impact of remittances within families and local communities; regional migration cooperation; migration and development with a focus on know-how transfer; relation between

transnational economic activities, trade and migration; minority rights; a politics of community - the role of political elites in fostering the idea of “diversity in unity”; citizenship policy;

**3) Social disparities and welfare state** centered around social and economic challenges in the post-conflict region; distribution of wealth; welfare states and their impact on social inclusion and social cohesion; regulation of market systems; rural development and social and economic disparities; class, gender, age and minority groups and their access to social provisions and labour market.

- Papers to be presented can handle topics within the region in general or deal with the processes of change in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The selected candidates will be able to share and discuss their work in one of the panels, wherein researchers involved in RRPP-funded projects will also present their research results. For more information about the current round of the RRPP research proposals, please visit the RRPP Website section '[Current Projects](#)'.

All interested candidates should submit **a single PDF file** containing a short Curriculum Vitae (max. 1 page), an abstract of the proposed conference paper (max. 300 words) and a short letter of motivation (max. 1 page) **by 19 January 2015 at the latest** to [magdalena.solska@unifr.ch](mailto:magdalena.solska@unifr.ch) and [jasmina.opardija@unifr.ch](mailto:jasmina.opardija@unifr.ch). While sending an application, all candidates should state in the 'Subject' section of their email their chosen thematic area (**Governance and decentralization, Migration, Social disparities and welfare state**).

### **Selection Process**

The selection process for abstracts will be completed by the end of February 2015. After initial approval of abstracts, selected candidates will be invited to submit a full research paper (up to 5000 words) by **3 May, 2015**.

### **Costs**

The RRPP Management will cover travel and accommodation expenses for all accepted applicants, and/or provide opportunities for co-financing, should the costs in individual cases exceed the average expenses per participant attending the conference.

### **Programme**

Participants will be informed about the programme and specific panels of the conference as well as all relevant technical details in due course. The RRPP Website will also be updated on regular basis.

The organisers reserve the right to limit the number of applicants accepted to participate at the conference.

For more information about our previous conferences held in 2011, 2012 and 2013 please visit our website (<http://www.rpp-westernbalkans.net/en/conferences.html>).

We are looking forward to your proposals. Should you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact [magdalena.solska@unifr.ch](mailto:magdalena.solska@unifr.ch)