

## DSSH/ASD DITËT E STUDIMEVE SHQIPTARE / 2018

albanian studies days / journées d'études albanais

UET / 27-28 April 2018

**Topic: "THE STATE AND PUBLIC GOODS/SERVICES: REGULATOR OR PROVIDER?"**

Konferencë ndërkombëtare shkencore / International scientific conference



Mozaiku i Tiranës, shek. III A.D.

## CALL FOR PAPERS



# DSSH / ASD 2018

## Studying Albania – economy, politics, social development, future perspective

The European University of Tirana, Albania in cooperation with Polis Journal and Economicus Journal is opening the call for papers for the 5th edition of the Albanian Studies Days Conference to be held in Tirana on 27-28 April 2018 focusing on the role of the state in regulating and/or providing public services.

Albanian Studies Days (ASD) Conference is the flagship academic activity of the European University of Tirana and in 2018 it will be its fifth successive session. The conference aims to bring together the most renowned international scholars focusing on Albania and the Western Balkans to examine the most pertinent issues facing Albania and its region. ASD 2018 will focus on the role of the state in providing and/or regulating public services. Scholars interested in the region and on the topic are encouraged to participate in the conference which brings together researchers of politics, economy, law, sociology, anthropology, psychology, finance, education, IT, and development to discuss the formal and informal practices and institutions that affect the state's role and ability to provide and/or regulate public services in Albania and the region.



# DSSH / ASD

## BRIEF GUIDE TO ALBANIAN STUDIES DAYS

**WHY ASD?:** Albanian Studies Days is a series of scientific conferences designed with a “peer review” system and focused on discussions about important issues related to Albanian society, ranging from economy, history, media, to legal system, political institutions, public policies, and on to development of education and its impact on social development.

### PARTICIPANTS:

- a. Foreign scholars whose doctoral works and scientific studies focus on Albania.
- b. Albanian professors, who have provided their contribution to Western universities since 1990s or earlier, whose work still focuses on Albania.
- c. Foreign PhD candidates whose doctorate thesis is about Albania.
- d. Albanian PhD candidates at Western universities whose doctorate thesis is related to Albania or the region.
- e. UET PhD candidates who benefit from their contact with the relevant scientific community.
- f. ASD is the key scientific activity for all eight UET Departments, for UET academic staff as well as for the best UET scientific master students.

**TIME:** This activity is held at the end of April on an annual basis and it is divided into seven panels related to respective UET Research Projects and relevant topics approved by the scientific conference committees.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** The activity also includes a number of other events (see extra-conference program) related to crucial elements for scientific product and life, such as; book promotions and their ensuing discussions, documentaries and photo exhibitions featuring pressing concerns in Albanian society.

Welcome to Albanian Studies Days!



# Plenary session: European University of Tirana

## Work sessions: UET premises

### A. CONFERENCE PERSPECTIVE AND OBJECTIVES

Quality, standards, affordability, and the scope of public services are currently some of the most pertinent debates regarding the role of the state in delivering public services and regulating their market. How can institutions achieve the highest possible standard in delivering public goods? How can societies ensure that public services are available to all the groups that need them and whose life would benefit from them? As importantly, what role do states and governments play in delivering public goods: regulators or providers? Can societies achieve an acceptable equilibrium between the private interests of the markets and the interests of those who stand to benefit from public services? All these questions are today the subject of intense reflections, debates, and reforms in most countries including Albania.

Therefore, the 2018 Albanian Studies Days is dedicated to this topic as it is both hotly contested, very sensitive to the public, and crucially important for a balanced economic development. All scholars who examine the setup, delivery and reform of public services in established democracies or consolidating ones like Albania are welcome to our two-day conference to exchange ideas, perspectives and share findings with the purpose of perfecting the study of this important topic and contributing to better, evidence-based, policy making.

### B. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof Ardian Civici – European University of Tirana, Albania / Prof Tonin Gjuraj - European University of Tirana, Albania / Prof Drita Kruja - European University of Tirana, Albania / Prof.Asoc. Dr Tea Sindbæk Andersen - University of Copenhagen, Denmark / Prof. Bo Petersson - Malmo University, Sweden / Dr Cristina Bucur – Oslo University, Norway / Prof. Engjell Pere - European University of Tirana, Albania / Prof. Franz Kok – University of Salzburg, Austria / Prof. Selami Xhepa - European University of Tirana, Albania / Prof. Paul Nixon – The Hague University of Applied Science, Netherlands / Dr Gëzim Visoka – Dublin City University, Ireland / Prof. Ferit Duka - European University of Tirana, Albania / Prof. Luljeta Minxhozi - European University of Tirana, Albania / Prof. Nico Carpentier – Uppsala University, Sweden / Prof. Guglielmo Chiodi - Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy / Prof. Francois Lerim - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier, France / Prof. Asoc. Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis - London School of Economics, UK / Prof. Kornelia Lazany – Obuda University, Budapest, Hungary

### C. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Organizing Committee is composed of chairs of research projects and an assistant for each of seven research projects, who will be responsible for managing correspondence and documentation, upon instructions from the Project Chairs.

This Committee is responsible for preparation of the program of the respective panels and logistics.

Prof.Dr Drita Kruja - European University of Tirana / Prof.Dr Ferit Duka - European University of Tirana / Prof.Dr Luljeta Minxhozi - European University of Tirana / Prof.Dr Engjell Pere - European University of Tirana / Prof.Asoc. Dr Selami Xhepa - European University of Tirana / Prof.Asoc.Dr Arbi Agalliu - European University of Tirana / Prof. Asoc.Dr Tomi Treska - European University of Tirana / Dr Ledina Mandia - European University of Tirana / Elvin Gjevori, PhD - European University of Tirana / Dr Blerjana Bino - European University of Tirana

## D. CONFERENCE PANELS AND DISCUSSION THEMES

### PANEL 1: "POLITICS, COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY"

**Chair – Prof. Dr. Ferit Duka**

This panel will examine the main issues related to Albania's and the region's current political system emphasizing the challenges faced by different political and social actors in the way of improving and reforming the state, governance and provision of public services. The focus of this year's panel will be on the ongoing debate on the most appropriate mechanisms and emerging practices for providing public services in ways that are commensurate to the challenges and limitations that Albania and countries similar to it experience.

Therefore, the papers which can be relevant for submission to this panel should be focused on:

- Risks of a despotic power and an ever-growing state
- One-party state, or the legitimacy crisis
- Populism vs reformism
- Populism and democracy: friend or foe
- The role of the state in education: provider, regulator or deregulator?
- Interest groups or the state as the biggest interest group?
- Legitimacy: what kind of state is better suited to attain popular support?
- Spontaneous Social Order vs. State Direction of Society
- Energy Security: Albania and the Western Balkans
- New Actors in Balkan Geopolitical Landscape
- Regional Dimensions of Religious Extremism in the Western Balkans
- Migration and security
- Does a small state need a grand strategy?
- Truth and 'post-truth'; dis-information in an information age;
- Language, Culture and Society in Albania
- New media, the shifting tide of political communication
- Mediatized Political Campaigns in New Democracies
- Communication and Media Research in a Changing World
- Literature and Collective Memory in Albania
- Global Opinion
- Public Policy

**Panel Committee:**

1. Prof. Dr Ferit Duka
2. Prof. Asoc. Dr Belina Budini
3. Prof. Asoc. Dr Roland Lami

### PANEL 2: "DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EDUCATION"

**Chair – Prof. Asoc. Dr. Tomi Treska**

This panel will mainly be focused, but not only, on the analysis of the Albanian (pre-university) education system, the roles of the stakeholders and their responsibilities for designing educational policies and the implementation of those reforms in the education sector; strengthening qualitative methodology in teaching and learning and the impact of psychosocial factors in the development and individual education.



Papers that can be relevant for submission at this panel should be focused on:

- Is the Pre-university Education system in Albania a State or e Public service?
- Educational Policies, reforms and stakeholders; Teacher as a state/public service provider.
- Curriculum design and evaluation
- Models and methodology in teaching and learning;
- Education for children with special needs
- The role of technology in teaching and learning.
- How school and career counselors can help assisting with the career development of their students.
- Providing food for children in public schools - a new experience in Tirana
- The impact of psychosocial factors in the development and individual education.
- Mental health and service development
- Well-being in schools
- Child and Youth development

Panel Committee:

1. Prof.Asoc. Dr Tomi Treska
2. Prof. Dr Erleta Mato
3. Prof.Asoc. Dr Voltisa Lama

### **PANEL 3: "LAW BETWEEN EFFICIENCY AND JUSTICE"**

Chair – Prof. Asoc. Dr. Selami Xhepa

This panel will review the legal environment in Albania during the last decade and make comparisons with the different comparator groups, such as the Balkans, NEU countries and EU member states.

Some topics that this panel may try to address could include, but not limited to:

- How financial sector regulation serves the needs of the economy by balancing efficiency of intermediation with protection of clients' interests;
- How much does it costs the business the present regulatory framework; does it justifies the protection of consumers and other stakeholders' interests?
- How free are the free markets: an analysis of competition of specific sectors: energy, telecommunications, education and health, water supply, wholesale, oil and gas, banking and insurance, etc.
- How EU internal market regulations has impacted the national economic and social regulations - an ex-post evaluation;
- How the future process of EU integration can impact business legislation, consumer and firm behavior, etc. - an ex-ante evaluation.
- Where the Doha agenda does stands? what expectations we can form with regard to the future of international trading regime
- How structural policies and agricultural support is evolving in the EU and the margins of play left for outsiders (such as aspirants for membership)
- The new trends on regionalism: considerations for the sectoral implications of the proposed Balkan economic area
- Public sector, a provider or a supervisor of the welfare public services.
- Public goods and Publicly Provided Public Goods.
- Efficient government as a public good.
- Efficiency and Distribution Trade-offs.
- Public Utilities within the context of EU regulation policies.

#### Panel Committee:

1. Prof.Asoc. Dr Selami Xhepa
2. Prof. Dr Arlinda Ymeri
3. Prof.Asoc. Dr Juelda Lamce

### PANEL 4: "LAW AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN TRANSFORMATION"

#### Chair - Dr Ledina Mandija

This panel will be focused, but not limited, on Albania's recent judicial reform and its potential impact on the provision of public good/services and further need of an electoral, public administration and constitutional reform. The panel welcomes comparative reviews, examinations of the implementation of recently approved legislation, and future challenges for the establishment of rule of law in Albania and countries similar to it.

Topics that can be relevant for this panel should be focused, but not limited to:

- What is public about public services? Public policy and public goods/services. The case of Albania and comparative view.
- Public authorities and private companies as provider of public goods. The new developments in the EU.
- Partnership Public-Private in providing public goods/services. The case of Albania and comparative view mainly with the countries in the region and EU countries.
- Consumer protection, EU law and legal harmonization in Albania.
- Legal EU framework in providing public goods/services and legal harmonization in Albania.
- Control of using the public funds in providing public goods/services. Anti-corruption legal framework.
- Reform on higher education and its implementation in Albania. Comparison view with other countries in the region and Europe.
- The role of judiciary in protection of foreign investors providing public goods/ services.
- The efficiency of the judicial reform in Albania and the challenges for the future.
- The electoral reform and the impact on the public goods/services.
- The role of the public authority in providing public good/services and the need for a Reform on the public administration.
- The constitutional reform in the framework of the fulfillment of the social objectives and the impact on the public goods/services.

#### Panel Committee:

1. Dr. Ledina Mandija
2. Prof.Dr. Nevila Nika
3. As.Prof.Dr Ervis Iljazaj

### PANEL 5: "THE NEW AGENDA OF GROWTH"

#### Chair - Prof.Dr Luljeta Minxhozi

This panel will focus on the development of the tourism sector in Albania and the Western Balkan region. The development of the tourism sector involves diverse actors ranging from governments – that influence its development through policy intervention, infrastructure development and regulations – to key players in the private sector. This diversity presents a dilemma. On one hand, it shows that unlike other sectors that are inherently enclaves, such as the extractive sector, tourism creates linkages across sectors in the economy and, therefore, is more likely to contribute to economic diversification. On the other, the diverse range of actors and activities in the tourism sector



adds to the challenge of creating a sustainable tourism sector, which requires that each area or activity be sustainable. A range of policies, investments and training are necessary to make all tourism-related activities sustainable and to contribute to sustainable development.

Topics that can be relevant for this panel should be focused, but not limited to:

- The relative importance of the tourism sector from the global and national perspective.
- Assessment of the potential direct and indirect impacts of tourism on local economies and its potential role in poverty reduction and inclusive growth.
- **The challenges of the tourism sector, specifically potential damage to the environment and cultural heritage.**
- Tourism development and urban preservation
- Smart destination development: the application of e-tourism, social media, crowd sourcing
- Lifecycle perspective of tourist development: consequences for urban preservation
- Service provision and heritage preservation: the standardisation vs. authenticity paradox
- New technologies in heritage presentation and promotion, such as mobile applications, guided tours, **ICT enabled presentation, augmented reality**
- Empowering community for the governance of special heritage places
- Leveraging creativity through the arts, media and heritage communities of practice
- Public and private partnerships to revitalisation of heritage (physical, cultural, memory)
- Case studies in sustainable heritage tourism governance, policy making and management
- New modelling approaches for the governance of heritage-hospitality projects/events
- Law and sustainable tourism development
- **The role of education in underlining the significance of heritage preservation through tourism intervention to revitalise local communities**

**Panel Committee:**

1. Prof. Dr Luljeta Minxhozi
2. Prof. Dr. Drita Kruja
3. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Endira Bushati

## **PANEL 6: "RISK – THE GAME OF ALL PLAYERS"**

**Chair – Prof.Asoc. Dr Arbi Agalliu**

Private initiative is crucial for providing a solid foundation to free-market economies. In the banking system, while private initiative is paramount, state-mandated regulatory supervision is crucial for ensuring sound financial practices. In principle, the banking, non-banking and financial market supervisors do not "make the rules", they only ensure that existing rules are properly applied. However, both legislators and regulators need to continuously update their approaches to a sector whose only constant is change.

Therefore, this panel will bring together leading experts and academics who will examine the most important challenges that the Albanian and regional financial system, including banking and non-banking financial institutions, and insurance companies among others are facing. The main focus will be on the examination of the financial system competition, supervision, regulation and the role of the State as a regulator or a provider of services.

Papers which can be relevant for submission at this panel should be focused on:

- Supervision, regulation and bank risk-taking,
- Organizational structure of supervisors and effectiveness,
- Competition, banking supervision and financial stability,
- Albanian capital market infrastructure, dynamics and regulation,



- Government regulation impact on insurance sector and consumers,
- Tax policy and real economic activity (Macro and Fiscal Policy),
- State Economic development tax incentives.

**Panel Committee:**

1. Prof. Dr. Adrian Civici
2. Prof. Asoc. Dr Arbi Agalliu
3. Prof. Asoc. Dr Hysen Muceku

## **PANEL 7: “FROM BIG DATA TO BIG BUSINESS”**

**Chair: Prof.Dr Engjëll Pere**

Big data has become a key asset in modern societies, economies, and governmental organizations and encompasses various kinds of complex and large scale information that are beyond the processing capabilities of conventional software and databases. Big data provides a key basis for innovations in various domains and applications. It can benefit data managers, developers, companies and various kinds of organizations to carry out useful analysis of data pattern and trends, make intelligent decisions, and solve complex problems that can help societies and economies and speed up innovations. The analysis of big data is still in its infancy and many question regarding it remain unanswered. In particular, this panel is interesting in the role big data can play for the delivery of public goods and services. This panel aims to promote the state of the art in scientific and practical research of big data and bring together researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and public sector to present their research and share development ideas.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Big Data as ‘a new frontier’ for most of the public sector
- Big data business intelligence and analytics for the public sector and government
- Big data impact on public service provision and new opportunities for public service organization
- New models of value for-money public provision
- New sources of data, such as Crowdsourcing, Internet of Things
- The challenges regarding data ownership, data quality, privacy, civil liberties, and equality.
- The public sector’s ability to attract big data analyst talent.
- Innovations in big data
- Data protection and integrity
- Identity theft, data loss and leakage
- Legal and ethical issues
- Data economics
- Big data and key business functions in public sector.
- Technologies for big data
- A big data scenario for energy management
- A big data concept for distance learning
- Big data scenario for health care

**Panel Committee:**

1. Prof. Dr. Engjëll Pere
2. Prof. Dr. Mimoza Durrësi
3. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Ermira Qosja



## D. GENERAL RULES OF THE CONFERENCE

Paper abstracts 300 words shall be submitted through the email address: [dssh@uet.edu.al](mailto:dssh@uet.edu.al) indicating clearly the panel in which the presentation shall be delivered;

A short biographical information of the author(s) and contact details should accompany the abstract;

An applicant shall not submit more than two papers as author and/or co-author;

Conference language: English

### **Deadlines:**

- Abstracts shall be submitted to the conference secretary within **January 30, 2018**
- Accepted papers will be notified by the organizers by **February 15, 2018**
- Draft research papers shall be submitted in a publishable format within **15 April, 2018**.
- Final paper for publication shall be submitted by **May 30, 2018**
- **Technical standards of the papers:**

Paper shall be between 5,000-6,000 words; Times New Roman, 12; in English language. A summary of no more than two pages shall be in Albanian language

These deadlines are final and failure to comply remains responsibility of the interested participants.

### **Papers shall be sent to:**

E-mail: [dssh@uet.edu.al](mailto:dssh@uet.edu.al)

### **Payments:**

Participation in the conference is upon the payment of a fee of 50 € per paper. This fee covers access to conference facilities and documentation; publication of the paper in the Conference Proceedings Book; a copy of the published book.

Payments shall be made at:

#### ***Banka Kombetare Tregtare***

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NE JEMI KUDO!

Universiteti Europian i Tiranës

**DSSH/ASD DITËT E STUDIMEVE SHQIPTARE / 2014**  
 albanian studies days / journées d'études albanais UET / 1-4 Maj 2014

**TEMA: "TË RIMENDOJMË ZHVILLIMIN DHE INTEGRIMIN"**  
 Konferencë ndërkombëtare shkencore / International scientific conference



Mozaika i Tiranës, shek. I A.D.


Adresa: Bulevardi Gjerqj Fishta, Nd. 70, H.1, Tiranë, Cel. 068 20 16 616, info@uet.edu.al, www.uet.edu.al

NE JEMI KUDO!

Universiteti Europian i Tiranës


**DSSH/ASD DITËT E STUDIMEVE SHQIPTARE II / 2015**  
 albanian studies days / journées d'études albanais UET / 24-26 Prill 2015

**Tema: "TRANSFORMIMI I MADH: 25 vjet përvoja shqiptare e tranzicionit dhe demokratizimit"**  
 Konferencë ndërkombëtare shkencore / International scientific conference



Mozaika i Tiranës, shek. I A.D.

Në partneritet me:




Adresa: Bulevardi Gjerqj Fishta, Nd. 70, H.1, Tiranë, Cel. 068 20 16 616, info@uet.edu.al, www.uet.edu.al

Po vjen një epokë e re. Bëhu gati!

Universiteti Europian i Tiranës


**DSSH/ASD DITËT E STUDIMEVE SHQIPTARE / 2016**  
 albanian studies days / journées d'études albanais UET / 29-30 April 2016

**Topic: "ALBANIA AS A CASE STUDY: ECONOMY, POLITICS, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE"**  
 Konferencë ndërkombëtare shkencore / International scientific conference



Mozaika i Tiranës, shek. I A.D.

In partnership with:




Adresa: Bulevardi Gjerqj Fishta, Nd. 70, H.1, Tiranë, Cel. 068 20 16 616, info@uet.edu.al, www.uet.edu.al

Po vjen një epokë e re. Bëhu gati!

Universiteti Europian i Tiranës


**DSSH/ASD DITËT E STUDIMEVE SHQIPTARE / 2017**  
 albanian studies days / journées d'études albanais UET / 28-29 April 2017

**Topic: "RE-ENGINEERING REFORMS FOR A NEW MODEL OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT"**  
 Konferencë ndërkombëtare shkencore / International scientific conference



Mozaika i Tiranës, shek. I A.D.

In partnership with:



Adresa: Bulevardi Gjerqj Fishta, Nd. 70, H.1, Tiranë, Cel. 068 20 16 616, info@uet.edu.al, www.uet.edu.al

PMK / **PROGRAMI I MADH KËRKIMOR 2015-2020**  
**SHQIPËRIA INOVATIVE / INNOVATIVE ALBANIA**



**Universiteti  
Europian i  
Tiranës**



**PASHKO  
Instituti Europian**

qendra e ECI (instituti evropian për edukimin)  
MAPRO

Scientific research at the European University of Tirana has been organized into 7 big scientific research projects, led by distinguished academics of respective fields.



UET - MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAM / INNOVATIVE ALBANIA 2015-2020

**RP / LAW AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN TRANSFORMATION**

Dr. Ledina Mandija



UET - MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAM / INNOVATIVE ALBANIA 2015-2020

**RP / POLITICS, COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY**

Prof. Dr. Ferit Duka



UET - MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAM / INNOVATIVE ALBANIA 2015-2020

**RP / THE NEW AGENDA OF GROWTH**

Prof. Dr. Luljeta Minxhozi



UET - MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAM / INNOVATIVE ALBANIA 2015-2020

**RP / DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EDUCATION**

Prof. Asoc. Dr. Tomi Treska



UET - MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAM / INNOVATIVE ALBANIA 2015-2020

**RP / RISK-THE GAME OF ALL PLAYERS**

Prof. Asoc. Dr. Arbi Agalliu



UET - MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAM / INNOVATIVE ALBANIA 2015-2020

**RP / LAW BETWEEN EFFICIENCY AND JUSTICE**

Prof. Asoc. Dr. Selami Xhepa



UET - MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAM / INNOVATIVE ALBANIA 2015-2020

**RP / FROM BIG DATA TO BIG BUSINESS**

Prof. Dr. Engjëll Pere