

Report from the World Bank International Conference
POVERTY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS
Brussels, Belgium, December 14-15, 2010
www.worldbank.org/eca/wbalkans2010

About the conference in general

The conference marked the conclusion of a very successful collaboration between the World Bank and DfID in strengthening collection and analysis of micro-economic data and producing policy relevant research in the region. The conference is also part of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion organized by the European Commission. The objective of the conference was to bring together leading academics and researchers from European Member States, the six countries of the Western Balkans and international organizations active in the area of combating poverty and social exclusion to:



- Showcase recent policy research on poverty and social inclusion in the Western Balkans.
- Promote dialogue between academics and policy makers and identify priorities for the future research agenda on poverty and inclusion.
- Encourage collaboration between researchers in EU Member States and Candidate and Potential
- Candidate countries, with a view to the formation of research networks that could be leveraged in the future to apply for EU funding.
- To offer opportunities to discuss analysis and policy options on issues including: measurement of poverty and social inclusion, impact of the crisis, labor markets, migration, social protection, and vulnerable groups.

My presentation

Due to the huge number of papers presentations and discussions were organized in four panels in parallel. In two days were realized 20 panel discussions and 6 plenary sessions. My presentation was in the first day of the conference at the panel “**Impact of the crisis**” together with the following participants and theirs papers.

- **Ihsan Ajwad.** The World Bank. *The Jobs Crisis: Household and Government Responses to the Great Recession in Europe and Central Asia.*
- **Zlatko Nikoloski.** University College London. *Impact of Financial Crises on Poverty in Developing World: an Empirical Approach.*
- **Mihail Arandarenko, Pavle Golicin.** University of Belgrade and the Foundation for the Advancement of Economics Public Policy Research Centre, Serbia. *Policy Responses of the Western Balkans Countries to the Global Economic Crisis and their Social and Labor Market Impact.*
- **Hristijan Risteski.** Center for Economic Analyses, Macedonia. *Effects of the Global Economic Crisis on the Vulnerable Groups in the Republic of Macedonia.*

Flow of this panel was very interesting. First were presentations of papers which are focused on big number of countries like ACA region and developing countries (Presentations for Household and Government responses from the ECA region, then impact of the Financial crisis on Poverty in Developing World). Than, discussion was focused on the Western Balkans countries (presentation for Policy Responses of the Western Balkan Countries to the Global Economic Crisis and their Social and Labor Market Impact). At the end of the panel was my presentation for the Effects of the Global Economic Crisis on the Vulnerable Groups in the Republic of Macedonia. Chair on this panel was professor Christopher Gilbert from the University of Trento.



Relevance to CEA and future activities

This conference was excellent opportunity for CEA to present itself as a leading research organization from Macedonia for poverty and social inclusion. I had a chance to interact with officials on high positions at the European Commission and World Bank and to hear their opinion for the Western Balkans Countries and Macedonia as well, regarding those issues.

Also at the conference were presented latest researches and findings from the Commission and World Bank regarding the measurement of poverty and social inclusion, impact of the crisis, labor markets, migration, social protection, and vulnerable groups.

Information, studies, papers and researches which were presented at the conference are very solid foundation for CEA's future studies and researches in the field of poverty and social exclusion. Bearing in mind that Macedonia is country with one of the highest unemployment rates, huge number of population are living in poverty and are facing socially exclusion, there is a huge need for development of policy papers, researches and analyses for combating these issues. By its work, in near future CEA will provide relevant recommendations and suggestions for decision makers how improve the situation with the poverty, unemployment and social exclusion in the country and on implementing policies and practices from European Union.

Estimated Budget¹: 1857 Euros

Item	Number of units	Unit price	Total
Airplane ticket (economy class, round trip)	1	572 Euros	572 Euros
Transportation from/to Brussels international airport to the hotel	2	40 Euros	80 Euros
Transportation to/from Skopje airport	2	15 Euros	30 Euros
Hotel	3 nights	375 Euros	1125 Euros
Diner	1	50 Euros	50 Euros
TOTAL			1857 Euros

¹ All expencies were covered by the organizers of the conference.

Appendix 1: Agenda



World Bank International Conference *Poverty and Social Inclusion in the Western Balkans*






Brussels, Belgium, December 14-15, 2010

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December 13th, 2010

14.00-17.00	Registration – Hotel ALOFT- Lobby
15.00-16:00 16:00-17.00	Introduction to ADEPT and ADEPT Gender – Hotel ALOFT Michael LOKSHIN, The World Bank <i>Note: the two sessions cover the same materials – seating is limited to 50 people per session</i>
17.00-19.00	Welcome drink at the Hotel ALOFT

December 14th, 2010

08.00-08.45	REGISTRATION		
08:45-9:00	OPENING REMARKS [B1] Chair : Dirk Reinerman, The World Bank		
	 Marco MANTOVANELLI	The World Bank	
	 Stephen McCLELLAND	DFID	
	 Georg FISCHER	The European Commission	
09.00-10.30	PLENARY SESSION 1: POVERTY AND INCLUSION: SETTING THE STAGE [B1] Chair : Benu Bidani, The World Bank		
	 Luca BARBONE	The World Bank	Poverty and Growth in the Western Balkans
	 Isabelle MAQUET	The European Commission	The New Strategy for Social Inclusion in the European Union: Implications for Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break		
11.00-12.30			

	PLENARY SESSION 2: SOCIAL ASSISTANCE [B1] Chair: Marco Mantovanelli, The World Bank		
	 Boryana GOTCHEVA  Ramya SUNDARAM  Aylin ISIK-DIKMELIK	The World Bank	Social Safety Nets in the Western Balkans: Design, Implementation and Performance
12.30-13.30	Lunch Break		
14.00-15.15	PARALLEL SESSION 3.1: POVERTY & INCLUSION I [B1] Chair : Isabelle Maquet, The European Commission		
	 Gordana MATKOVIC	Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies, Serbia	Poverty in Serbia During Transition– Trends, Policies, Dilemmas
	 Joseph Deutsch,* Jacques SILBER* and Paolo Verme**	* Bar-Ilan University ** The World Bank	Measuring Social Inclusion in Serbia and in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
	 Gianni BETTI*, Andrew Dabalen**, Celine Ferrè**, Laura Neri*	*University of Siena ** The World Bank	Further Updating Poverty Mapping in Albania
	 Julie Litchfield*, Barry Reilly*, Mario VENEZIANI**	*University of Sussex **Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	An Analysis of Life Satisfaction in Albania: an Heteroskedastic Ordered Probit Model Approach
14.00-15.15	PARALLEL SESSION 3.2: IMPACT OF THE CRISIS [S1] Chair: Christopher Gilbert, University of Trento		
	 Ihsan AJWAD	The World Bank	The Jobs Crisis: Household and Government Responses to the Great Recession in Europe and Central Asia
	 Zlatko NIKOLOSKI	University College London	Impact of Financial Crises on Poverty in Developing World: an Empirical Approach
	 Mihail Arandarenko*, Pavle GOLICIN **	* University of Belgrade and the Foundation for the Advancement of Economics ** Public Policy Research Centre, Serbia	Policy Responses of the Western Balkans Countries to the Global Economic Crisis and their Social and Labor Market Impact
	 Hristijan RISTESKI	Center for Economic Analyses, Macedonia	Effects of the Global Economic Crisis on the Vulnerable Groups in the Republic of Macedonia
14.00-15.15	PARALLEL SESSION 3.3: ROMA INCLUSION [B2] Chair: Agota KOVACS, The European Commission		
	 Niall O'HIGGINS	University of Salerno	It's Not That I'm Racist, It's That They


			Are Roma: Roma Discrimination and Returns to Education in South Eastern Europe
	✚ Ethan YEH, Juan Diego Alonso	The World Bank	Evidence from a Baseline Survey on ROMA Children in Education
	✚ Marijana JASAREVIC	The World Bank	Roma Inclusion: An Economic Opportunity for Serbia
14.00-15.15	PARALLEL SESSION 3.4: SOCIAL PROTECTION [S2] Chair: Ana Krsmanovic, CEED Consulting		
	✚ Keetie ROELEN*, Franziska Gassmann**	*Institute of Development Studies, **Maastricht Graduate School of Governance	How Effective Can Efficient Be? Social Assistance in Kosovo and What It Means for Children
	✚ Suzana BORNAROVA	University Ss Cyril and Methodius	Financial (In)security in Old Age in Macedonia: Implications from the Pension System Exclusion
	✚ Mihail Arandarenko, Sonja AVLIJAS, Sasa Randjelovic, Marko Vladisavljevic, Jelena Zarkovic-Rakic	Foundation for The Advancement of Economics Serbia	Simulating Distributional and Poverty Outcomes of The New Law on Social Welfare in Serbia
	✚ Caterina RUGGERI LADERCHI, Ramya Sundaram, Alexandru Cojocaru, Natsuko Kiso Nozaki	The World Bank	Improving Targeting of Social Assistance in Albania
15.15-15.45	 Coffee Break		
15.45-17.00	PARALLEL SESSION 4.1: MIGRATION I [B2] Chair: Lorenzo Guarcello, UCW		
	✚ Judith MOELLERS*, Wiebke Meyer* Gertrud Buchenrieder**, Sherif Xhema*	* Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO) ** Universität der Bundeswehr München	The Contribution of Migration on Poverty Reduction in Rural Households in Kosovo
	✚ Irina SHAORSHADZE, Sachiko Miyata	The World Bank	Foreign Remittances and Poverty Reduction in Kosovo
	✚ Laetitia DUVAL*,	*Université de Nantes	Longitudinal Evidence on Financial

	François-Charles Wolff**	**Université de Nantes	Expectations in Albania: Do Remittances Matter?
	✚ Ermira KALAJ	University of Durres	Remittances and Human Capital Investment: Evidences from Albania
15.45-17.00	PARALLEL SESSION 4.2: THE DISTRIBUTIONAL IMPACT OF REFORMS [S1] Chair: Jesko Hentschel, The World Bank		
	✚ Caterina Ruggeri Laderchi and Alexandru COJOCARU	The World Bank	The impact of energy tariffs reforms – the case of Serbia and Albania
	✚ Sasa RANDJELOVIC, Jelena Zarkovic-Rakic	University of Belgrade and the Foundation for the Advancement of Economics	Distributional and Poverty Effects of Income Tax Reform in Serbia
	✚ Jelena ZARKOVIC-RAKIC*	*University of Belgrade	Employment Effects of Tax Cuts: the Case of Serbia
15.45-17.00	PARALLEL SESSION 4.3: POVERTY & INCLUSION II [S2] Chair: Zarko Pasic, Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues (IBHI)		
	✚ Edin Sabanovic*, Nedim CATOVIC**, Envesa Hodzic-Kovac***, Nicola Nixon**	* BiH Agency for Statistics **UNDP *** UNRC Office	UNDP Regional Disparity Study in BiH
	✚ Hana BARONIJAN*, Slobodan Cvejic**	*Ipsos Strategic Marketing, Serbia , **University of Belgrade	Social Exclusion in Serbia, 2002-2007, as a Phenomenon of Multiple Deprivation
	✚ Antonella BISCIONE, Federica Borzillo	University of Bari	Uni- and Multidimensional Poverty in Albania
15.45-17.00	PARALLEL SESSION 4.4: AGRICULTURE I [B1] Chair:, Justus Wessler, Technische Universiteit Munchen		
	✚ Sara SAVASTANO	University of Rome Tor Vergata	Challenges and Opportunities for Smallholders Agriculture in the Western Balkans
	✚ Elvira LEKSINAJ	Agricultural University of Tirana	An Analysis of the Structural and Economic Agro-Food Sector in Albania
	✚ Ivan DJURIC, Linde Götz, Thomas Glaben	IAMO	The Global Food Crisis 2007/2008: Serbia's Policy Response on Wheat Markets, Its Consequences and Alternative Policy Measure
	✚ Natalija BOGDANOV*, Mina Petrovic*	*University of Belgrade	Financial Poverty and Material Deprivation in Rural Serbia

17.00-18.00	PLENARY SESSION: POLICY PANEL [B1] Moderator: Marco Mantovanelli, The World Bank		
19.45-23.00	 Conference Dinner - Sofitel Brussels Europe Hotel <i>(Aperitif at 7:45 pm; Dinner at 8:00 pm)</i>		
December 15th, 2010			
09.00-10.30	PLENARY SESSION 5: GENDER I [B1] Chair: Belinda Pyke, The European Commission		
	 Sarosh SATTAR	The World Bank	Regional Gender Report
	 Carrie TURK	The World Bank	Qualitative Evidence on Gender Inequalities in Poland, Serbia, Moldova
10.30-11.00	 Coffee Break		
11.00-12.30	PARALLEL SESSION 6.1 : MEASURING POVERTY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN MOVING TO SILC [B2] Chair: Gero Carletto, The World Bank		
	<i>Panel presenters:</i> Edin SABANOVIC (BHAS); Blagica Novkoska (SSO); Basquim Bellaka (SOK); Ines Nuria (INSTAT) [TBC]		
11.00-12.30	PARALLEL SESSION 6.2 : RESPONSES TO MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES IN A POST CRISIS ENVIRONMENT (JOINT SESSION WITH ILO) [B1] Chair: TBA		
	 Natalia POPOVA	ILO	Labour Migration and Protection of Migrant Workers in the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine: Regulation of Migration Flows, Anti-trafficking Issues and Skills Matching
	 Sudharshan Canagarajah and Luca BARBONE	The World Bank	Migration Practices in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Migration and Remittances Peer-Assisted Learning (MIRPAL) Network
	 Luca BARBONE * and Natalia POPOVA **	*The World Bank **ILO	Bringing Migration into the Development Agenda of the Western Balkan Countries: WB and ILO potential engagement and collaboration under the new IPA regional project
12.30-14.00	 Lunch Break		
14.00-15.15	PARALLEL SESSION 7.1: GENDER II [S2] Chair: Sarosh Sattar, The World Bank		
	 Victor Sulla and Niels Hugo	The World Bank	Gender Impacts of the Crisis in Serbia: Panel Evidence

	BLUNCH		
	✚ Biljana APOSTOLOVA	University of Ljubljana	Gender Wage Gap in Western Balkan Countries
	✚ Kosovka OGNJENOVIC	Institute of Economic Sciences Serbia	Wage Differences in Serbia: an Application of Quantile Regressions
	✚ Juna MILUKA	University of New York in Tirana	Not Just Education: Gender Wage Gap in the Albanian Labor Market Through Occupational Segregation, Work Experience, and Child Care
14.00-15.15	PARALLEL SESSION 7.2: MIGRATION II [B2] Chair : Gero Carletto, The World Bank		
	✚ Wiebke MEYER*, Gertrud Buchenrieder**, Judith Möllers*, Sherif Xhema*	*Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO), ** Universität der Bundeswehr München	Remitting from Germany To Kosovo – An Empirical Study Based on the Theory of Planned Behavior
	✚ Zvezda DERMENDZHIEVA	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	Migration, Remittances, and Labor Supply in Albania
	✚ Eralba CELA*, Elena Ambrosetti**, Ilir Gedeshi***	*Polytechnic University of Marche, ** Unesco ***CESS Center for Economic and Social Studies, Tirana	Gender, Remittances and Inter-Generational Relationships: A Case Study From Albania
	✚ Florian TOMINI*, Jessica Hagen-Zanker**	*Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, ** Overseas Development Institute, UK	How Has Internal Migration in Albania Affected the Receipt of Transfers From Family and Friends?
14.00-15.15	PARALLEL SESSION 7.3: VULNERABLE GROUPS [B1] Chair: Caterina Ruggeri Laderchi, The World Bank		
	✚ Ifigeneia KOKKALI	European University Institute	Spatial Proximity and Social Distance: Invisible Forms of Albanian Migrants' Exclusion in the Cityspace. Evidence from Greece
	✚ Slobodan CVEJIC and Marija Babović	University of Belgrade	Poverty and Social Exclusion of Internally Displaced Population in Serbia
	✚ Elena GAIA	UNICEF Regional Office for CEE-CIS	Child Poverty and Exclusion in the Western Balkans (TBC)
14.00-15.15	PARALLEL SESSION 7.4: AGRICULTURE II [S1] Chair: Liesbeth Vranken, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven		
	✚ Elodie DOUARIN	University of Sussex	Agriculture and Social Protection Tool: Evidence from Kosovo
	✚ Sophia DAVIDOVA	University of Sussex	Agriculture, Sustainability of Anti-poverty Measures: The Hidden Use of

			Kinship Networks
	✚ Faton OSMANI	Consul of Kosovo accredited to London	Barriers to Diversification of Income-Generating Activities for Farming Households in Kosovo
	✚ Sabahudin BAJRAMOVIĆ	University of Sarajevo	Rural Employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina
15.15-15.45	Coffee Break		
15.45-17.00	PARALLEL SESSION 8.1: INSTITUTIONS [B2] Chair: Kenneth Simler, The World Bank		
	✚ Klodjan RAMA and Insa Theesfeld	Leibniz-Institute of Agriculture Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO)	Social Inclusion, Customary Rules and Natural Resource Management in Albania
	✚ Esmeralda GASSIE	University of Limerick	Sustainability of Anti-Poverty Measures: The Hidden Use of Kinship Networks
	✚ Sonila TOMINI* and Truman G. Packard**	*Maastricht Graduate School of Governance **The World Bank	Informal Gifts in Public Health Care: Scarce Resources or Governance Failure? Evidence from Albania Using Living Standard Measurement Survey
15.45-17.00	PARALLEL SESSION 8.2: LABOR & JOB CREATION [B1] Chair: Hartmut Lehman, IZA		
	✚ Johannes KOETTL	The World Bank	Do formal jobs pay in the Western Balkans? The role of labor taxes and social benefits in creating formal jobs
	✚ Aleksandra Nojković*, Suncica VUJIC**	*University of Belgrade **London School of Economics	Severance to Job: Evaluation of the Active Labor Market Program in Serbia
	✚ Marina PETROVIC	Maastricht Graduate School of Governance	Subjective Well-Being of Social Assistance Recipients in Serbia: the Experience of Public Work Participants
	✚ Branka ANDJELKOVIC* and Pavle Golicin*	*Harvard Kennedy School of Government	Evaluation of the Public Works Program in Serbia in the Period 2008-2009
15.45-17.00	PARALLEL SESSION 8.3: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DECENTRALIZATION [S1] Chair: Boryana Gotcheva, The World Bank		
	✚ Agim POSHKA	The South East European University	The Quality of Social Service in Multicultural F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Implications, Obstacles, and Inequities
	✚ Danilo VUKOVIC	Belgrade University	Institutional Capacities, Social and Human Capital and the Application of Law: Reforms of the Local Social Protection System in Serbia
	✚ Chiara	* Foundation for the	Political Economy of Regional Cohesion

	GUGLIELMETTI* and Sonja Avlijas**	Advancement of Economics, Belgrade **University of Trento	in Times of Crisis: Case Study of South East Serbia
15.45-17.00	PARALLEL SESSION 8.4: MIGRATION III [S2] Chair: Ihsan Ajwad, The World Bank		
	 Irena AVIROVIK	Institute of National History of Macedonia	Patterns of Migration From Macedonia
	 Simeon KARAFOLAS	Technological Educational Institute of Western Macedonia	The Demand For Annual Workers in Greece and Its Influence on the Entrance of Albanian Workers
	 Artjoms IVLEVS	University of the West of England	Together or Apart: Exploring Attitudes Towards Ethnic Cohabitation in Post- Independence Kosovo
	 Marta FAVARA*, Sachiko Miyata**, Rafael Novella*	*University of Essex, **The World Bank	“Filling-Up the Shopping Trolley”: Improvements in Nutrient Intake and Remittances in Kosovo
17.00-18.00	PLENARY SESSION: POLICY PANEL [B1] Moderator: Georg Fischer, The European Commission		

LIST OF POSTERS

 Antonella Biscione and Federico Borzillo	University of Bari	The Impact of Economic Growth on Poverty Reduction in Albania And Serbia
 Venera Demukaj	University of Trento	Foreign Aid And Poverty Reduction in Post-Conflict Kosovo
 Suncica Dimitrijoska* and Vera Dimitrievska**	* Institute of Social work and social policy **National Consultant UNFPA	The Socio-Economic Transformation And the Welfare System in Republic of Macedonia
 Ardiana Gashi	FAMA College	Feminism and Islam in Post-Communist society: a Case of Kosovo
 Etleva GERMENJI* and Lindita Milo**	*Centre for Economic and Social Studies Albania **University of Tirana	Migration, Remittances and the Global Economic Crisis: Albania
 Jasmina Osmanković, Adela Delalić, Rabija Somun-Kapetanović, Hatidža JAHIĆ	University of Sarajevo	Poverty and Inequality in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ani PLAKU* and Ermira Danaj**	*Social Policy At Advance Study Center, Albania ** European University of Tirana	Impact of Policy Reform on Poverty Reduction in Albania
 Jonuz Abdullai and Kujtim Ramadani	The South East European University	Social Changes and the Migration of Albanians From South-Western Macedonia
 Slavica SEKUTKOSKA and Daniela Tasevska	Psychiatric Hospital “Skopje”	Historical Experience of Drug Helpline
 Bratislav STANKOVIC and Mirjana Todorovska	University American College Skopje	Is Western Balkans’ Agriculture Ready for the Climate Change? Policy Options for Innovation And Technology Transfer
 Daniela TASEVSKA and Slavica Sekutkoska	Psychiatric Hospital “Skopje”	Social Inclusion of People with Mental Disorders in Republic of Macedonia
 Elona Xhaferri	Erasmus Mundus Mapp Program Representative	Income Inequality, Poverty and Social Inclusion in Albania
 Eglantina ZYKA, Elena Myftaraj (Tomori) and Fatmir Memaj	University of Tirana	The Illegal Migration as a Challenge of Poverty in Albania.
 Francesca Stocovaz	University of Torino	The Economic Re/integration of Trafficking Victims in the Western Balkans: The Untapped Potential of the Social Enterprise Model



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