

# **IRI International Conference on Social Processes**

14-15 DECEMBER 2015

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

International Research Institute s.r.o.  
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**IRI International Conference on Social Processes  
Program & abstracts**

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# IRI International Conference on Social Processes

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**Address: Budapest, V. district, Váci u. 47.**

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# IRI International Conference on Social Processes

**Budapest, Hungary, 14-15 December, 2015**  
Place: Pannon Kincstár – Humán Szakképző Központ  
Address: Budapest, V. district, Váci u. 47. Room No. 311.

## 14 December 2015

8.20-9.20 Registration

Presentations in Sessions

Session No. 1.  
Human Behaviour  
9.20-11.00

Yiping Li: Heritage tourism and social changes of a village in China
Murat Ortanca, Coşkun Güllü: The Case of Palestine from a Structural International Relations Perspective: Hamas and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)
Ágnes Horváth: Elections at the End of the 20th Century: Women in Politics
Eglantina Farruku: Human Security: The New Challenge of States
Eglantina Hysa: The relationship between Human Development and Corruption: How much are Western Balkan Countries lagging behind?
Alina Cantacuz: Euergetism/Benefactors and oil donation in Ionia in the Hellenistic and Roman period

Session No. 2.  
Crisis and Development  
11.10-13.10

Erda Cani: Impact of the Berlin Process in the economies of Western Balkan Countries
Ildikó Laki: The social transformation of Hungarian industrial towns between 1990 and 2015
Abdul Razak, Abdul Hadi, Tahir Iqbal: Technological Capability as a Key Determinant for Foreign Direct Investment – The Case of Indian Sub-Continent
Mirjana Sejđini: A Performance Ranking of LGUs in Macedonia
Abdulmenaf Sejđini, Ilirjana Kraja: Economic Growth by Sectors of Economy in Albania
Melih Yeşilbağ: What has Changed after the 2008 Crisis? Prospects for Social Transformation in Contemporary Capitalism

# 15 December 2015

Session No. 3.  
Labour Market & Human Sphere  
13.20-15.00

Zrinka Golemac, Iris Lončar: The Importance of Financial Literacy for Teens
Iris Lončar, Zrinka Golemac: European Strategies for Improving Financial Literacy
Şerife Kuzgun, Ersan Kuzgun: Evaluation of High Supreme Court Decisions for Mobbing Applications within the scope of Turkish Code of Obligations and in the light of Doctrines
Artan Haziri: Labour market (strengths and weaknesses) in Kosovo
Lindita Mukli: Quality Assurance of Academic Staff in Development of Albanian HE

Session No. 4.  
Wellbeing  
15.10-17.10

Veysel Çakmak, Ümmügül Baş: The Review of the Relationship between the Styles of Humour and the Skills of Solving Problems among the Employees
Albana Demi: Contributors and the Social Insurance System in Albania
Elena Stoica: The Impact Study of Migration to Europe on Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions Theory
Peter Balogh: Migration pressure, social threat – an attempt to interpret the social aspects of current migration processes
Ágnes Inántsý-Pap: Culturally responsive teaching's opportunities in church-run schools during the communist arae in Hungary

Closing the Conference

# Abstracts



## **Migration pressure, social threat – an attempt to interpret the social aspects of current migration processes**

**Peter Balogh**

**University of Szeged Department of Sociology, Szeged, Hungary**

In our planned presentation we wish to introduce some results from our research about the current refugee/migrant crisis in and its consequences on the countries of Europe. In our investigation we tried to outline how the sudden increase of international migration processes towards the European Union have been interpreted and managed on local/country level – with a special attention on the case of Hungary.

First of all we intend to explicate a possible theoretical frame that might be utilized to interpret the social dimensions of the refugee situation. This approach incorporates two different dimensions: on the one hand we relate the issue to the socio-economic differences of the (poor) countries the migrants are about to leave and the (rich) countries where they are supposed to get to. There can be observed an obvious advantage in the case of the latter ones as more developed welfare states, however – at least in some cases and to some certain extent – migration seems to be evaluated as a possible challenge or even difficulty for the social security systems of the European countries concerned. The other dimension can be partially linked to the former one: we argue that these ‘brand new’ migration processes in the local/national level of the European Union seem to be interpreted – or that may be more important articulated – and treated as a certain security issue. And as such these processes might easily be securitized: certain – even extremist – groups of the society may gain ground and prove to be ready to decrease or eliminate the possible threats – at least (or dominantly) on the level of identity – of large-scale migration. Considering these possible interpretation approaches our research question is whether on country level such efforts as described above can be detected and if not how can that be explained.

In a methodological sense our study is based on both (1) a kind of discourse analysis of individual public – e.g. released in the press – opinions and arguments related to migration situation by significant personalities and (2) an overview of research results of public opinion surveys (in)directly illustrating the overall social attitudes towards migration.

Based on the preliminary results the classical process of securitization can not be explored in Hungary, however this does not imply that migration do not prove to be treated as a possible threat.

## **The Review of the Relationship between the Styles of Humour and the Skills of Solving Problems among the Employees**

**Veysel akmak, Ümmügöl Bař**  
**Aksaray University, Aksaray-Turkey**

The humor is known as pattern of behavior which is used as an instrument for funniness, amusement, being funny as well as being an instrument to criticize from different point of view. There are four different types of humor such as participant humor, self-developing humor, aggressive humor and self-destroying humor. Problem solving is a process which begins when the individuals realize the problems around themselves and continues until a solution is found for them. During this process, the individual tries to achieve the goals in his vocational and personal life through eliminating the obstacles. The problem solving process should be executed through a convenient method and in a flexible and effective manner. More importantly, it is to aim struggling with problems and find new solutions rather than avoiding them.

In the research, the styles of humor among the employees and their skills to solve the problems will be measured and the relationships between those two variants will be analyzed. The field study related to the topic will be carried out on the employees of various enterprises in the province of Aksaray. The scale of humor styles by Yerlikaya (2003) and the inventory for solving problem by řahin et al., (1993) will be used as the measurement instrument.

**Keywords:** Humor, styles of humor, problem solving , employees

## **Impact of the Berlin Process in the economies of Western Balkan Countries**

**Erda Cani**

**Epoka University, Tirana, Albania**

Western Balkan Countries have undergone non similar paths of changes and therefore found themselves today in different transformation stages. Apart historical problems and conflicts, geopolitical changes, increased economic and social wellbeing the idea of European Integration has been and remains the main impulse for further economic and political cooperation. Nevertheless, nowadays Western Balkan countries found themselves in the struggle between on one side engaging all the efforts in ending the process of structural transformation in reaching the European standards and on the other side the continuous atmosphere of European fatigue and lack of capability insight EU to remain competitive in the waves of globalization. The Berlin Conference held on the 28th of August 2015 initiated a new process that represents a full economic strategy composed of necessary reforms and concrete projects which success is entirely based on cooperation and collaboration between countries. The Berlin Process offers a concrete integration process for the region and is serving as a possibility to restart the enlargement policies and transformation reforms in the region. The paper aims to assess the role that the Berlin Process will play in increasing the competitiveness of the region and the new impetus it will generate in the enlargement and integration process. The study analyzes and assesses the economic factors affecting the process and focuses in particular to the active role Albania should play in its successful implementation, the potential of Albanian economy in absorbing the main projects and in attracting investment opportunities in comparison with other Western Balkan countries. The research is based on the comparative analyses of the political and economic potential of Western Balkan countries, economic performance data and proposed project feasibility study. The intention of this research study is to build the first steps of a more complex platform which identifies the main areas of future projects planned to be implemented and their feasibility and highlights the interconnectivity possibilities. The paper explains the impact of the Berlin Process in speeding the integration process and activating policies that increase the competitiveness of European economy.

## **Euergetism/Benefactors and oil donation in Ionia in the Hellenistic and Roman period**

**Alina Cantacuz**

**Al. I. Cuza University, Iași, România**

The research about ancient civilizations hold multiple examples to follow in the economic and social aspects, and not only. The *problem* of contemporary world might discover some answers in the antic systems.

This is the case of euergetism/benefactor from the greco-roman world. The term *euergetism* is a french neologism, brought into use more often after 1980, when antic researchers started to study it. The greeks used it in words like: *euergetes* – benefactor of the city, *euergetein* – doing good to the city, *euergeteô* – doing good.

This economic, political and social phenomenon is about giving, from the richer persons (citizens, strangers, most of them called *proxeni*, hellenistic kings and queens, Roman emperors) to the city, to the needs of its inhabitants.

In my paper I will present some of the important works which stood at the bases of investigating euergetism, from which will result an important bibliography for the subject. Then I will resume the categories of benefactors and their giving, underlining the importance of them. I will also write and discuss four of the important definitions given for euergetism. Afterwards, I will get to the analysis of the case of Ionia, from Asia Minor, based on epigraphic study, just for the case in which oil is offered, to see: To who are the decrees dedicated? Which was the role of those that made these kind of donations during the hellenistic and roman period? What other aspects the inscriptions reflect, outside of those economic and institutional?

Euergetism was widely spread in the hellenistic world. After the Roman conquest, it developed more. Nowadays, historians try to understand the phenomenon and all the aspects that involve it. In my paper I will try to present, as clear as I can, just one part of it, the oil giving, in Ionia.

## **Contributors and the Social Insurance System in Albania**

**Albana Demi**

**Epoka University, Tirana, Albania**

This paper aims to provide an analysis of public and private social insurance system, their weaknesses and strong points and how they are treated by the financial authorities. The informality is a problem that all the talk, but few are those who do something to combat it. It has spread so much and has become so common in every level of society. Results of the research are based on a comparison of the social insurance system, the degree of informality and cleaning this scheme. The fight against informality and corruption has turned into a challenge in present in the entire system in the context of the country's integration into European structures. This has been a stressful problem for this scheme. In Albania, informality is in the focus of the strategy of state policy, because of the threat of social and economic consequences and the damage caused. To clean this scheme is initially worked to audited files of beneficiaries. In this paper there are data statistics provided by the Social Insurance Institute and different decisions taken by the Albanian courts. Pension systems allow individuals to make their own choices about how savings with which they want to ensure their future. To develop private pension funds there should be appropriate financial environment. The process of privatization of strategic sectors of the economy influences the expansion and increasing the role of private sector in the economy. Consequently, increase the potential of tax opportunities in the Social Security scheme. To minimize the evasion necessarily is required special consideration and processing of thought to the social insurance scheme. At the end is a framework of the conclusions and recommendations about possible interventions, in order to ensure a more efficient system and in the civil service.

**Keywords:** informality, social insurance, corruption, data analysis, economy, clean the scheme insurance system.

## **Human Security: The New Challenge of States**

**Eglantina Farruku**

**Epoka University, Tirana, Albania**

This paper offers a critical study of the human security concept and issues. Its usage, definition and applicability may differ since different authors explain issues related to security differently. Although there is still no common definition on what human security is most of the authors agree that human security is related to the individuals in terms of their well being. For too long, human security has been focused on protection of state territory recognizing a traditional perception of security. This kind of interpretation refers to a narrow security concept, not well constructed and incapable to address most of the important issues related with security of the individuals. The issue of security for a nation is quite different from the issue of security for an individual, because the first tends to protect the boundaries of the state where people live in; and the second aims to protect all human being from insecurities. Human security is a new challenge in today's world; it presents new threats which are far away from the threats generated by traditional concept of human security. Thus the concept of human security should be analyzed in the daily life of people, not in the guns and weapons of a country. Further, the protection and the welfare of the people should become first goal of the government. To protect people's life means to respect human security. In cooperation with international organizations, and NGOs, government should find and promote appropriate policies to establish a political, economic and social security environment for all the people as citizens of that country. People's rights are well prescribed in domestic law and international conventions; violations of them means the failure of state to respect itself law..

**Keywords:** Security, Individuals, Threats, State, Policy

## **The Importance of Financial Literacy for Teens**

**Zrinka Golemac, Iris Lončar**

**University of Dubrovnik Department of Economic and Business Economics,  
Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia**

The concept of financial literacy, as well as its constituent part – financial literacy of teenagers, has become a central topic of scientific and empirical practical research during the last two decades. Namely, the recent global financial crisis, which resulted in high unemployment rates, mortgage crisis, the growth of personal and public debt, inflation and a high level of financial uncertainty, has emphasized the importance of possessing financial knowledge and skills.

Faced with contemporary financial trends, teenagers are forced to be familiar with basic financial terms, their interdependence and the regulatory instruments which affect them. The results of existing research imply that most of today's teenagers occasionally work, own accounts in financial institutions and decide on the purchase of goods and services. In such conditions, there is a logical demand for teenagers to become qualified in financial decision-making and money management. Furthermore, financial literacy is one of the basic assumptions for starting an independent life. At the same time, the unexpected and surprising fact is that most of today's teenagers feel extreme financial anxiety and are in search of answers.

The paper has been drafted in a way that it first defines the term financial literacy which has been adapted to the target group of teenage population, and afterwards it considers former research on the level of their financial literacy. The presented results of available research represent a starting assumption for recognizing the importance of financial literacy for teenagers. The final aim is to elaborate the level of financial literacy of target population in detail, and to create guidelines for awakening the teenagers and promoting financial literacy as an imperative of contemporary formal educational programmes.

**Keywords:** financial literacy, teens, financial education

## **Technological Capability as a Key Determinant for Foreign Direct Investment – The Case of Indian Sub-Continent**

**<sup>1</sup>Abdul Razak Abdul Hadi, <sup>2</sup>Tahir Iqbal**

**University of Kuala Lumpur Business School, 1016 Jalan Sultan Ismail,  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Corresponding author. Tahir Iqbal**

This paper is pursued with the objective of investigating technological capability as a key determinant for foreign direct investment in Indian sub-continent consisting of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The focus of the study is to identify why some countries are attracting more inward FDI than others within the same geographical region as well as to uncover the plausible reason that could lure foreign direct investment (Indian sub-continent caters for one-fifth of the global population). Research methodology uses static panel data models involving fixed and random effects over yearly data from 1994 until 2011. Furthermore, a dynamic panel model via Park method is used on the datasets. The findings which indicate clear implications in those countries with strong domestic technological capabilities seem to have a solid influence in attracting inward FDI. The study also reveals that the relationship between domestic technological development and inward FDI is even stronger than other controlled variables (inflation, lending rates and GDP) in the model.

## **Labour market (strengths and weaknesses) in Kosovo**

**Artan Haziri**

**"Kolegji Victory", Prishtine, Kosovo**

The labor market is a whole relations arising between employers represented by the state or private, and employees, according to the labor legislation in force and international conventions. They are divided into two groups, working in the public market and private labor market. And now we focus on two issues: What a labor market and parallism represents between the economic development of a country, the rate of development of the state and labor force.

In an economy, the market represents the entirety of measures that allow or facilitate the exchange between buyers and sellers, so all the factors of production are delivered to market. Labour market occupies an extremely large weight. But what does the labor market represent? As for any other normal market, the labor market presupposes the confrontation of supply and demand for work and the achievement of equilibrium in key economic indicators. Until is thrown on the market the work is commodity. Each commodity has its values and benefits. Each of them can be used in different directions. Often this use does not depend on its own values, and so further the value is not used for better quality. There may be given numerous examples in this regard, but we concentrate on the human work (leaving out the materialized work .) The human work is performed by a man , who may have the ability to perform certain types of work. Of course, as noted by an ancient Greek philosopher, he can not perform all the works well. For one job he has the best qualities and to others not.

The holder of this, of these different abilities would like to come in use (and consequently bring to market and sell) with the best ability. And this is understandable since in this case he would provide the highest efficiency and would provide (in normal conditions) higher income. However, in many cases he can not meet his request. In fact, in most cases, it happens completely the opposite. So, for example, an intellectual with all the desire to deal with his intellectual work, in many cases today (we can meet with thousands of cases when the brain is used for such common work at home and abroad) is deprived of such a right, and he is forced to abandon his profession, working in another job which provides less effectiveness and provides less income.

## **The relationship between Human Development and Corruption: How much are Western Balkan Countries lagging behind?**

**Eglantina Hysa**

**Epoka University, Economics Department, Tirana, Albania**

According to literature, higher levels of economic development are correlated with improvements in many economic, structural and institutional aspects of a society and at the same time with lower corruption level. Western Balkan countries', being a group of countries aspiring to adhere to European Union, is making progress in decreasing the corruption and increasing the development level. But still this progress does not seem to be satisfactory for Western Balkans.

This study focuses on the relationship between human development and corruption level. A simple regression has been performed for each Western Balkan county during years 2002-2013. According to the findings, the above mentioned relationship is found to be strong in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania, weak in Croatia and insignificant for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The second aim of the study focuses on the performance of WB countries and EU toward the relationship between corruption level and human development. Empirical evidence of the study, comparing Western Balkans with the EU member countries, suggests that more corrupted countries tend to have lower levels of human development. Among the Western Balkan countries Macedonia shows up the strongest relationship between corruption and human development. The Western Balkan countries' similarity in this correlation shows implications for future policy making in the field of EU integration.

## **Culturally responsive teaching's opportunities in church-run schools during the communist era in Hungary**

**Ágnes Ináncsy-Pap**

**University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary**

There are a number of sharply contrasting views on the respective roles of the Church and the State in education in. According to one paradigm the Church and the State have been rivals since the very beginning, and the past two centuries have been all about the struggle between the old and the new dominating groups (Archer 1979), whereas according to another view certain social interest groups, leaning on the bureaucratic state for support, have got rid of the Churches in the first step in order to achieve civil rights (Polanyi 1944), and later they have gradually limited the role of the state as well (Molnar 1990). Church schools have played a fundamental role in Hungarian education for centuries. The cooperation between church and state was characterised by co-operation and a division of tasks. As a result of the Communist take-over, however, church schools were nationalized in 1948. Only 10 of them were allowed to exist under strict constraints, mainly as a display for the West.

The lecture presents the mechanism of the state control of national church schools working in the decades of communism, their financial troubles, the formation of the students' numbers and the results of researches related to the students' social background. First of all, we look for an answer for the question, how they became - during the decades of communism - from the sanctuary of layers deprived of their learning opportunities and forced into a marginal situation in the 1950s into partly elite schools by the 1980s, and how this role change determined their seeking ways after the political transformation of 1989-90. Meanwhile, church policy started softening in parallel with the erosion of state socialism. The communist power wished to utilize the churches' activity in the 1980s on such areas that had crisis because of the economic difficulties eg.: on looking after the handicapped, old, deviant and the poor. The ideological and political loss of the layers on the edge of society was unimportant for the system, but certain churches started to get experiences in this field that time eg.: in gypsy mission, which have been used in the educational system in recent years. Our research wishes to point out that the present situation of denominational schools in Hungary and their seeking ways can be interpreted only in the knowledge of the past of public educational role-taking of churches.

## **Economic Growth by Sectors of Economy in Albania**

**Abdulmenaf Sejdini, Ilirjana Kraja**

**Epoka University, Tirana, Albania**

A country moving from a centralized economy to an open economy faces a host of major problems with facing of inflation and ensuring stable rates of economic growth constitute the basic condition for a successful transition.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the years has undergone changes in the economic structure of the economy of the countries. This structural change was due to phenomena such as technological change, developments in relative prices, external changes and globalization. In this paper are analyzed by theoretical and empirical part impact of economic sectors: Agriculture, Industry, Construction and Services in Gross Domestic Product. The paper begins with a view of the world economy and an analysis of the current situation. Analyzing the elements that have contributed to economic growth and that the economic crisis is being handled in recent years.

During the transition, Albania has made significant progress towards macroeconomic stability by the implementation of deep structural reforms; the privatization of small and large enterprises, financial institutions and public services, the liberalization of foreign trade, strengthening public order, security and institutional reform. Particularly Albania is successful in macroeconomic stabilization, by creating conditions for a satisfactory economic growth.

The paper concludes with an empirical analysis regarding the impact of the economic sectors in GDP. The method used to estimate the model is OLS method. The quarterly GDP data assist economic analysis, because through them we analyse the general performance of economic activity, fluctuations over the business cycle and the turning points in the economy.

**Keywords:** Economic Growth, Economic Sectors, Economic Crisis

## **Evaluation of High Supreme Court Decisions for Mobbing Applications within the scope of Turkish Code of Obligations and in the light of Doctrines**

**Şerife Kuzgun, Ersan Kuzgun**

**Kırklareli University, Lüleburgaz / Kırklareli, Turkey**

Aim of this study is to evaluate psychological abuse subject with its other name mobbing from the legal perspective and within the frame of sample High Supreme Court decisions. This subject is not only a deep subject from employer and employee perspective but also with its legal and sociological dimension. Every step that will be taken about this delicate subject has a particular importance. In recent years High Supreme Court has taken many decisions about mobbing that can increase awareness of many employees. This is important. However there is no such other article except from law of obligations that lay emphasis on mobbing subject. Mobbing must be ensured by arrangements in other laws, not just in law of obligations and it must be persuader. Together with this work precautions must be taken by employers about mobbing, rights of the workers, decisions of the high supreme court about mobbing and arrangements can be done in future are also evaluated.

**Keywords:** Mobbing, Turkish Code of Obligations, Supreme Court.

## **The social transformation of Hungarian industrial towns between 1990 and 2015**

**Ildikó Laki**

**University of Szeged JGYPK, Szeged, Hungary**

In my presentation I intend to give a detailed analysis of social transformations of the past 25 years in Hungarian industrial towns (former 'socialist' towns<sup>1</sup>). The array of urban functions and activities has undergone a significant modification in the so-called traditional industrial towns (11), which resulted not merely in spatial and economic structural changes but furthermore in notable social ones as well. In the case of several towns social realignments (Tatabánya, Várpalota, Oroszlány), population loss (Dunaújváros, Salgótarján), as well as the emergence of new social groups in consequence of new activities undertaken (Százhalombatta, Ajka, Várpalota) occurred. Simultaneously local community initiatives commenced with the goal of finding viable roles for these towns and their residents; for some groups within the towns, while for others temporarily or permanently through relocation to other settlements. Thus the current survey primarily concerns itself with those social issues which have initiated and brought novel changes and developments in the towns under consideration in their local economies and at various levels of their communities. In the presentation, besides the elaboration of data available either based on applicability to one individual town only or collectively to all being surveyed, the main economic and spatial characteristics will be emphasized that can serve as the potential founding blocks of these settlements in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> Ajka, Dunaújváros, Kazincbarcika, Komló, Oroszlány, Ózd, Salgótarján, Százhalombatta, Tatabánya, Tiszaújváros, Várpalota

## **Heritage tourism and social changes of a village in China**

**Yiping Li**

**Department of Geography, the University of Hong Kong,  
Hong Kong Island HKSAR, China**

Since the 1990s, China has been enthusiastic about UNESCO World Heritage application, seeing a substantial rise of the associated tourism profits. It is rather questionable, however, if world heritage inscription is a sustainable option for managing heritage tourism and its induced social changes. This paper examines the relationship between heritage conservation and tourism induced changes in a small village of China, from the perspective of stakeholder collaboration. The empirical evidence that facilitates the examination was produced from a case study of a UNESCO world heritage site – Tulou -- in Fujian Province of China. The case study adopted mixed methods, including on-site observation, in-depth interview and questionnaire survey, in order to map out the specific stakeholders' roles for analysis. The findings indicate that tourism has brought changes of the village, leading to various conflicts of interest among the stakeholder groups. In the tourism development process the local government plays the dominant role. This scenario poses to the question as to the applicability of stakeholder collaboration for effectively managing heritage conservation.

**Keywords:** heritage tourism; conflicts; change; stakeholders; sustainable development

## **European Strategies for Improving Financial Literacy**

**Iris Lončar, Zrinka Golemac**

**University of Dubrovnik Department of Economics and Business Economics,  
Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia**

Recent global economic and financial crisis, besides affecting economic and financial sector, also affected a wide circle of individuals – credit payers who were not able to settle their debts, partly due to the growth of interest rates and partly because of a lack of personal income. Namely, at the beginning, the policy of low interest rates attracted a great number of borrowers with relatively low credit rating; however, the subsequent growth of interest rates caused their insolvency and enormous indebtedness.

In an attempt to overcome financial crisis and prevent its recurrence, the world leading countries conciliated on a set of measures for the regulation of business on financial markets. These measures, among other things, define the obligation of consumer protection by transparent information on financial products and accompanying risks. However, numerous researches have indicated that most of the population do not have a satisfying level of knowledge on basic financial categorical system. Therefore, in such circumstances, the expectations that optimum results will be gained solely by the processes of informing have become unreal, thus initiating the strengthening of financial literacy on a global level.

Governments and relevant stakeholders of many countries designed and established different approaches and programmes for promoting financial literacy. The aim of this research is to provide a comprehensive comparative overview of the former development of national strategies for improving financial literacy in the EU countries. The overview should be particularly interesting for countries which have just started to develop a programme of financial literacy, like Croatia. Special emphasis will be placed on key actors in financial literacy and examples of good practices at the EU level. Despite the identical aim, the research has shown that there is no generally accepted model, but individual national strategies adapt to specific conditions, possibilities and needs of population and country.

**Keywords:** financial literacy, national strategies, European Union

## **Quality Assurance of Academic Staff in Development of Albanian HE**

**Lindita Mukli**

**Epoka University, Tirana, Albania**

Teachers are the most important learning source available to most students. It is important for those who teach to have a full understanding and knowledge of the subject they are teaching, have the necessary skills and experience to communicate their knowledge and information effectively to students in a range of teaching contexts, and can access criticism on their own performance. Institutions should ensure that their staff recruitment and appointment procedures include means of making certain that all new staff have at least the minimum necessary level of competence. Teaching staff should be given chances to develop and prolong their teaching capacity and should be encouraged to value their skills. Institutions should provide lesser performing teachers with opportunities to improve their skills to an acceptable level and should have the means to remove them from their teaching duties if they continue to be demonstrably ineffective.

In many European HE the evaluation of the competencies of academic staff primarily reflects their research activities. The teaching competencies of members of the teaching staff are assessed by student evaluation, which is perceived as a source of feedback and as an instrument for self-assessment.

From the analysis of the surveys conducted in 5 universities (2 public and 1 private universities), it is concluded that the teaching staff's attitude must change toward a greater focus, on quality. Considered essential for institutional quality culture building in the sense of: "quality as a shared value and a collective responsibility for all members of an institution including students and administrative staff." (EUA, 2006), with the determination to establish a quality culture that encompasses the whole institution in a consistent and integrative manner. Systematic training on management and quality development of the teaching activities of teaching staff members must be implemented more and more often. In the framework of life-long learning courses, teacher education for academic staff is offered, although there is still noticed a weak response to this.

**Keywords:** HE, quality assurance, self-assessment, academic staff, research activities, competencies.

# **The Case of Palestine from a Structural International Relations Perspective: Hamas and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)**

**Murat Ortanca, Coşkun Güllü**

**Celal Bayar University, Political Science and International Relations  
Department, Manisa, Turkey**

The main argument of this study is about the necessity of addressing the issue of Palestine from a structural international relations perspective. Rather than a matter solely of Israel and Palestine. The relationship of Hamas and PLO with the international system is crucial for Palestine in the contemporary monopolar world system. In other words, the integration of Hamas and PLO into the international system will bring about advancements in terms of the likelihood of peace in the region.

The issue of Israel-Palestine is one of the most important issues today in the context of international relations. For more than half a century, the problem has produced its own heroes, intellectuals, as well as political, social, and even military groups. In other words, it has created a highly complex web of relations whose roots go back to post-WWI period. Among the most important dynamics of the issue are mutual recognition, borders, territorial integrity, security, peace talks, water supply, the status of Jerusalem, and the refugees. Therefore, this complicated issue requires a perspective wider than one that only considers its internal dynamics. Moreover, the fall of the Soviet Union has profoundly shifted the balance of world politics, and thus, the Palestinian issue requires a new reading that considers the realities of the contemporary world order.

This study does not purport to develop a perspective that comprehends all of the dynamics of the ongoing conflict. Such an ambitious project would far exceed the scope of the study as well as the knowledge of the author. Instead, the main purpose is to limit the scope specifically to Hamas and PLO in order to offer a structural reading of this highly complicated issue. The study will consist of three sections: The first section will address the historical developments of these two organizations, and the second section will argue for the necessity of a structural perspective. Finally the third section will address the two organizations based on the study's theoretical argument.

## **A Performance Ranking of LGUs in Macedonia**

**Mirjana Sejdini**

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Local government performance within the public sector performance is coming back because local government is faced with the problem of increased responsibilities under tighter budgets. Therefore, the issues of managing taxpayers' money more efficiently and effectively still remains a challenge for the local government decision makers. In addition, increased social inclusion have pressured for increased accountability and transparency towards the local government managers.

This paper aims to facilitate decision makers as well as the local government citizens to offer a ranking system of local government units (LGUs) in Macedonia by analyzing and normalizing some of the main financial indicators that make up the final annual accounts of all LGUs in Macedonia. This will create a local government index showing the best and worst performing municipalities in the country. Provision of one aspect of LG government performance allows all local government stakeholders to have an overview of the budget spent as well as identify some best practices by comparatively identifying the practices of the best performing LGUs. However, the data availability will narrow the scope of this performance ranking.

We hope that this study will contribute modestly to the existing literature of the efficiency in the public sector and specifically in that of local government sector. So far, studies related to the public sector efficiency have an increased interest. However, this interest has remained far from Balkan Countries, the closest one being local government efficiency of Slovenian Municipalities.

**Keywords:** financial performance, local government performance

# **The Impact Study of Migration to Europe on Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions Theory**

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*Justify* - Almost 600,000 migrants are estimated to have arrived in Europe this year, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), but exact numbers are unclear as some may have passed through borders undetected.

*Purpose* - Migration process means a multilevel study through economics, anthropology, sociology, political science and geography. The mixed social, economic, political and cultural implications of immigration have frequently been assessed as a whole. My study is built on effective impact of migration in the eyes of cross-cultural values.

*Methodology* – Beside the study of the literature, and transnational data collection, I employ a quantitative research by using regression models to explain why and to what degree immigration alter prior cross-cultural studies.

*Findings* – The longitudinal methodological approach shows that many minority groups express more intense attachment to the value of maintaining their own traditions and cultures and explains the complexity of migrating. The study on population change and on the structure of population provide the opportunity to monitor demographic behaviour within cultural contexts.

*Future development* - These study may be used to support the policymaking to reduce or remove particular differences between newcomers and natives.

**Keywords:** cross-cultural study, migration, national culture, European Union

## **What has Changed after the 2008 Crisis? Prospects for Social Transformation in Contemporary Capitalism**

**Melih Yeşilbağ**

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At the onset of the new millennium, Perry Anderson had contended that neoliberalism was the most powerful ideology modern history had recorded. Approximately a decade later, this remark no longer seems to be true. The last ten years, and more intensely the years following the 2008 financial meltdown, has witnessed an unprecedented public debate questioning the relevance, credibility, and sustainability of neoliberalism as an economic, political and social order. Unlike previous moments of crises, the debate this time has not remained as merely an issue among radicals or intellectuals, but growingly expanded to include mainstream figures and actual decision makers. The central question that the debate revolves around has been the following: "Is neoliberalism over?" The sudden loss of prestige on the side of hardcore free-marketism along with the crisis management policies by states in the form of bailouts of financial giants and enormous liquidity pumping has been regarded by several commentators as sufficient conditions to herald the end of neoliberalism and the return of a sort of "state-regulated capitalism." Contrary to these arguments, this paper makes two claims. First: Departing from an analytical perspective that regards neoliberalism not as a pre-given and fixed template conquering the world, but a flexible hegemonic *process* that is inherently incomplete and crisis-prone, always contested, negotiated and articulated with other projects; it argues that crisis management packages so far do not essentially violate the neoliberal logic that has dominated the world for the last three decades. On the contrary, what they signify is a further deepening and entrenchment of neoliberalism across the globe. Second: emphasizing the need to distinguish between ideology and actual practice, it argues that the ideological crisis of neoliberalism has not yet been tantamount to the disassociation or overthrowal of neoliberal power blocs across the world. Criticizing the assumptions and misconceptions of neoliberalism in the emerging literature of "postneoliberalism," it seeks to construct an analytically precise understanding of "the crisis of neoliberalism" in order to be able to assess the possible outcomes. Then, it concludes with a sketch of a contemporary *moving map of neoliberalism* that highlights the divergent trends across the world with respect to neoliberal governance.

## **Elections at the End of the 20th Century: Women in Politics**

**Agnes Horvath**

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The possibility / need of women's political participation are one of the big questions in the XX century. During the different periods of civilization, the situation of women in the economy, social and political roles have changed.

In the XX century, the women's role did not only strengthened economically, but also increased by the possibility of education, which has opened up the world for them. Significant developments in communication revolutionary changed women's, but also all other social group's possibilities.

The appearance of women in the political arena is basically influenced by the introduction of universal, equal suffrage, secret . They became important for the parties than voters, politicians appearance but clearly still not accepted. Since the 1970-ies the political movements struggling equal opportunities for women equal opportunities had been envisaged. The democratization process in many countries around the world as a result of a significant increase in the number of female politicians.

In this lecture I will examine the change of the number of women in parliaments around the world, as well as their appearance among political leaders: the president, prime minister's positions.

The question is, is there a connection and extension of the suffrage of women in high-level political engagement. Ruanda, India are on the top, USA and Hungary are the lowest ranked among the states in the question of women's participation in parliaments. In many countries, the presence of female leaders in political life is high, their social, economic and in some cases, legal position is questionable.