



STRATEGIC DIALOGUES: WESTERN BALKANS SECURITY PERSPECTIVES

Western Balkans is historically one of the most dynamically changing regions of Europe. It is placed on the crossroads between Central and Eastern Europe, and thus forms a crucial link in the chain of security for both regions. To ensure the persisting security, despite the changing security environment, constructive and permanent dialogue between the two regions is necessary. The dialogue can provide each side with the perspectives of the other. In this way, our mutual understanding of reality becomes more accurate, which in turn forms a sounder basis to formulate effective policies in the areas of regional security.

Program

13:00 – 13:10

Official Welcome by the STRATPOL director Dr. Richard Q. Turcsányi and by a representative of Slovak Embassy to Bosnia and Hercegovina

13:10 – 13:20

Keynote opening speech

13:20 – 14:50

Contemporary security issues in Bosnia and Hercegovina and Western Balkans: challenges and opportunities for security cooperation

With ever-changing security environment in the East and the South, new kinds of threats keep emerging, while old ones seldom seem to disappear. Issues of radicalism, terrorism, and refugee/migrant-influx have been added to already existing amalgamation of eternal problems, such as defense reform and necessity of democratic control over armed forces. Countries in Western Balkans need to constantly adapt to successfully cope with all these challenges. The panel will discuss possible ways of facing these challenges, as well as argue opportunities which may arise to better cope with the said process. It will also try to demonstrate how a constructive dialogue between Central Europe and Western Balkans can contribute to common security.

Speakers:

Ana Tršić-Babić – Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, founder and board member of Institute for strategic analysis and dialogue - ISAD

Miloš Šolaja – Professor Banja Luka University

Vladimir Đorđević – STRATPOL, Research Fellow

14:50 – 15:20
Coffee Break

15:20 – 16:50

Regional security policy, institutional reforms, and transition: Central European experience and Western Balkans needs

There are many similarities between the challenges which both regions must cope with. During recent years the security policy of Central European states has been in process of adapting to new threats from the East. This adoption comes in many forms, prominent among which are institutional reforms, development and maintenance of professional armed forces, and ongoing modernization of military. Are there any direct lessons learned which could serve as guidance to Western Balkans' contemporary needs? May the regional security relations within Western Balkan states serve as a suitable framework for the improvement of their military capabilities aiming to adequately face with new non-military security changes?

Speakers:

Dušan Fischer - Slovak Foreign Policy Association

Milko Grmuša - Director of Political Academy of the Party of Democratic Progress

Nina Sajic - Former Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to France, Algeria, Andorra, Monaco and Romania, president and a co-founder of Institute for strategic analysis and dialogue - ISAD

Richard Q. Turcsányi - STRATPOL, Director

16:50 – 18:00
Reception

Partners



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