

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY AND CHANGE IN THE BALKANS”
December 5-6, 2024
Istanbul, Türkiye

ORGANISERS

1. University of New York Tirana, Albania
Institute of European and Balkan Studies - European Research Centre
2. Turkish German University, Türkiye
3. Ibn Haldun University, Türkiye

LOCATION

Turkish German University, Istanbul, Türkiye

RATIONALE

The Balkans have long been a region of significant geopolitical interest, often serving as a crossroads of cultural, political, and economic interactions. In recent years, the region has faced a period of heightened geopolitical uncertainty, influenced by various global and regional dynamics. Thus, the Balkans remain at the forefront of these changes as the world grapples with shifting power balances, emerging conflicts and economic transformations.

The conference aims to explore the multifaceted dimensions of the Balkans in these turbulent times and to address the complexities of the region’s current geopolitical landscape and its implications for local and global stakeholders. To academically argue the key issues related to the Balkan region the conference will focus on the theme “Navigating Complexity and Change in the Balkans”.

TOPICS

The upcoming conference invites scholars, academics, policymakers and analysts from the Western Balkan, Turkish and Albanian universities and institutions who have written and researched the conference's subject matter and its main areas.

We welcome papers on a wide range of topics around this interdisciplinary main theme, including, but not limited to:

I. Geopolitical Dynamics:

- Historical legacies and their impact on contemporary geopolitical issues.
- Lessons learned from past geopolitical crises and their relevance to current challenges.
- The role of major global powers (e.g., the EU, the US, Russia, China) in shaping Balkan geopolitics.
- The influence of international organisations and alliances on Balkan policies.
- Humanitarian issues and their interplay with geopolitical factors.

II. Security and stability in the Balkans:

- The impact of regional conflicts and territorial disputes on stability and security in the Balkans.
- The influence of migration and demographic changes on regional security and cohesion.

III. Political, Judicial and Social Transformations:

- The impact of political instability and governance issues on regional dynamics.
- Social movements, nationalism, and identity politics in the Balkans.
- The role of the EU, processes of European Integration and democratisation in the Western Balkan countries.
- Democratic transition and their different trajectories in the Balkan countries.
- The rule of law and justice reform.

IV. Economic and Developmental Challenges:

- The effects of economic sanctions, trade policies, and investment flows on the Balkans.
- The role of regional economic cooperation and integration in promoting stability.
- Addressing economic disparities and developmental challenges in Balkan countries.
- The role of international cooperation in addressing environmental and humanitarian challenges.
- Energy supply in the Balkans and its impact on economy; Balkans's own resources and the distribution network in a wider European region.

IV. Future Perspectives of the Balkans:

- Future scenarios for the Balkans and strategies for navigating uncertainties.

FORMAT & LANGUAGE

- The conference will be in a hybrid format (in-person/physical attendance and on Zoom).
- The language of the conference will be English.
- The papers of the conference will be published in the "Book of Conference Proceedings" and the selected ones (peer-reviewed) in the *International Journal of Balkan Studies* (UNYT).

IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission of Abstracts: 15 October 2024
- Notification of Acceptance of Abstracts: 30 October 2024
- Submission of Full Papers: 30 December 2024

PAPER GUIDELINES & SUBMISSION

- **Abstracts:** The abstract should be brief, indicating the purpose/significance of the research. It should be a single paragraph between 300-500 words. The abstract must include the background, methodology, results/findings and conclusions.

- **Full Papers:** The authors should prepare their papers in accordance with the "Paper Guidelines", available on the UNYT - IJBS website: www.ijbs.unyt.edu.al
- **Submission:** The authors should send their abstracts and full papers by email to Dr. Sokol Lleshi: sokolleshi@unyt.edu.al

REGISTRATION FEE:

- For academics of the three organising universities: **Free**
- For other speakers: **100 Euros**