



Invitation letter

Institute for European and Globalisation Studies, Zagreb
The Jean Monnet Chair in EU Political Studies: Networks of European Integration,
Faculty of Political Science University of Zagreb

invites you to international scientific conference

EU, CROATIA, AND ROLE OF TURKEY IN THE BALKANS: CONTINUITIES AND CHANGE

29 September 2016, Kuća Europe Zagreb, Augusta Cesarca 6

Croatia and Turkey share substantial part of common history in the Balkan Peninsula, and are challenged by multiple political, social, and economic processes in the South Eastern Europe and Mediterranean. By tackling these issues, scholars can comprehend more substantially these processes, and contribute with their conclusions to the governments, academia, and society at large. This conference aims at establishing network of Croatian and Turkish scholars and introducing new concepts in Croatian-Turkish relations, focusing on continual exchanges between two nations and on changes in the region, and beyond.

Conference consists of three working panels:

- **EU, Turkey, and refugee crisis**

This panel deals with refugee and migrant wave that struck Europe, which begins on the shores of Turkey, and through the Balkans flows to the strongest states of the European Union. It also deals with the German-Turkish negotiations, faster pre-accession debates, and Turkish-European relations.

- **Bilateral relations between Turkey and Croatia**

Historically, relations between Turkey and Croatia run deep. Centuries of border sharing between Habsburg Empire (later Austro-Hungary) and Ottoman Empire left a significant historical and cultural heritage of both worlds in Croatia. As a border country, Croatia got to know and understand the Islamic world more than any other predominantly Catholic society. On the other hand, Turkey still cares for Balkan (Rumeli) as part of the ancient Empire, and shares a significant nostalgia for this period. The basis of shared history formed a great support of Turkey in times of Croatian independence, especially through the reign of Süleyman Demirel. Today these relations should focus on more strategic and long-term roadmap planning in political, economic, and cultural spheres. Also, Turkey started to invest in Croatian tourism, infrastructure and cultural heritage from the Ottoman past.

- **Regional focus on Balkan**

Turkey and Croatia share common geographical and cultural characteristics in Balkan and Mediterranean regions. Recently, a substantial debate has been started over the New Turkish Foreign Policy. Both regions face numerous challenges, from political and democratic development to the security issues.

We especially encourage participants to focus on following topics:

- Common experiences of Croatia and Turkey in EU accession
- Refugee crisis, methods and challenges of dealing with it
- Orientation of Turkish politics to EU and vice versa
- Common Croatian-Turkish historical and cultural heritage

- Contemporary Croatian-Turkish political relations
- Turkish Investments in Croatia
- New Turkish Politics
- Role of Turkey and Croatia in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Macedonia

Paper proposals: 400 word max. Please add your CV in the application. All papers and presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes, with discussion at the end of each panel/session. Written papers should not exceed 15 pages (approx. 1600 signs per page) with scientific apparatus included. Participants will be later notified about the possibility to publish conference proceedings in paper. A limited number of full accommodation and transportation fund will be awarded to Turkish guest-speakers.

The articles of attendees of the conference will be announced in the magazine of European Studies <http://hrcak.srce.hr/europske-studije?lang=en>

We invite scholars to submit their abstracts by the 26th of June 2016.

Contact person:

Vedran Obučina, political scientist

E-mail : v_obucina@yahoo.com.

Zagreb, February 3 2016.