



RESEARCH PILLARS

April 2017

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1. Social and Cultural Change / Democracy and Development

*Under the auspices of the Institute for Studies in Democracy and Development
led by Prof. Dr. Fatos Tarifa*

This is a very broad area of research involving a variety of perspectives from various social science disciplines. The focus on cultural, social, economic and political processes clearly transcends the conventional distinctions between sociology, political science, economics, anthropology, psychology and cultural studies. Therefore research subjects in this area are to be drawn from interests that transcend not only the boundaries of the various social science disciplines, but also the boundaries of a single country. The general focus of research will be on problems of social, economic and political organization that are global in their general character but national in specific characteristics.

More specifically research in this area will be focused on cultural, social and economic change, and on democratic development in Albania. The components and engines of change will be studied at both the macro and micro levels, combining empirical findings with relevant social theory. By carefully differentiating conclusions specific to Albania at this point in time, and conclusions that can still be relevant after crossing national borders, research in this area will help to better understand the social effects of the processes of local, regional and global economic, cultural, and political integration on the lives of Albanian citizens.

Generally speaking research in this area is viewed as a program of social science for democracy. It is an orientation that sees research on social and cultural change not as an activity to be pursued merely as an end in itself to satisfy our intellectual curiosity. Rather, through the critical analysis of current issues of development, it aims to contribute to the scientific study of Albania's rapidly changing society and the education of informed publics, groups of people with common interests who can exert influence on the government, on various institutions and industry.

Project 1.2: Evidence-based Policymaking in Albania

AUSPICE: SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH CENTRE, INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND MEDIATION, REGIONAL RESEARCH PROMOTION PROGRAMME, SWISS AGENCY FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

LEADER: DR. ELTION MEKA

DURATION: SEPTEMBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2016

Summary

This project examines the relationship between scientific evidence and policymaking in Albania. We address the following questions: To what extent are policies informed by scientific evidence? How do civil society organizations characterize the attitudes of government officials towards scientific evidence? How can social scientists strengthen the relationship between scientific evidence and policymaking?

Research Team

1. Dr. M. Dauti, Principal Investigator, marseladauti@unyt.edu.al.
2. Dr. Erika Bejko, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, Co-Investigator, ebejko@yahoo.com.
3. Dr. Ariana Cela, arianacela@unyt.edu.al

Research Output

- Dauti, M., & Bejko, E. (2015). The use of scientific evidence in designing social protection policies. Tirana, Albania: Institute for Democracy and Mediation.
- Dauti, M. (2015). Evidence-based policymaking in Albania: From theory to practice. National Conference on Fostering Evidence-Informed Policymaking Practices in Albania, Institute for Democracy and Mediation.
- Dauti, M. (2016). Contesting corruption: How the poor demand accountability and responsiveness from government officials. *British Journal of Social Work*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1093/bjsw/bcw019
- Dauti, M., & Bejko, E. (Gusht 2016). Using evidence to shape social policies in Albania: Some considerations for social work researchers and practitioners. International Social Work and Society Academy, Ghent, Belgium.

Project 1.3: Decentralization, Local Governance, and Community Development

AUSPICE: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTRE/ DOCTORAL SCHOOL

LEADER: DR. ELTION MEKA

DURATION: DECEMBER 2015- 2017

Summary

Over the past two decades, more than seventy-five countries have endorsed the shift from centralized to decentralized governance. An essential component of this shift has been the establishment of formal organizations, such as town hall meetings, local referendums, and citizens' commissions, that promote community engagement in decision making. The expectation is that community members will take advantage of these new opportunities: they will organize and act collectively to hold officials accountable. But what happens in a context characterized by a strong

legacy of centralized governance? We focus on community participation in formal organizations in Albania.

We also examine the interactions of the poor with government officials in Albania – a country characterized by low levels of government transparency and accountability. Drawing on participant observation conducted in municipal departments, we address two questions: How do the poor interact with officials? How do the poor hold officials accountable and make their voices heard? Eleven weekly meetings between the mayor, vice mayor and community members were attended in three municipalities. Using a grounded theory approach, we found that while interacting with officials, the poor use three techniques of persuasion: appeals to personal ties, political loyalty, and equity. By using these strategies, the poor held officials morally accountable, hoping to increase their responsiveness and receive better treatment. This study shows that while the Albanian poor often experience exclusion and discrimination in municipal departments, such as segregation in housing, portraying them as powerless would be overly simplistic. In the midst of corruption, inequality, and political polarization, the poor act strategically. Ultimately, however, their strategies reinforce rather than challenge the practices that marginalize them. We conclude by discussing implications for anti-corruption strategies, and pro-poor policies and programs.

Research Teams

Project 3, Track 1: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN ALBANIA

1. Dr. Marsela Dauti
2. Dr. Fabio Daneri

Research Output

Dauti, M. (July 2015). *Five lessons on how to strengthen community participation in formal organizations* in Albania. Paper presented in International Symposium of the International Consortium for Social Development, Singapore.

One research paper on participatory process is in progress.

Research Teams

Project 3, Track 2: CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES TO THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS IN THE BALKANS

1. Prof. Fatos Tarifa
2. Dr. Ilir Kalemaj
3. Dr. Eltion Meka
4. Dr. Enila Cenko
5. Ramiola Kalemi, Doctoral student

Research Output

Kalemi, R. (2013). The Differences between Men and Woman in the Labor Market in Albania (Durrës Case), *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, ISSN 2281 3993(Print), ISSN 2281-4612(Online), 2013, Vol 2, No 8.

- Kalemi, R. (2013) Human equality regardless of race or Etnia: a case study of Roma community in Albania, Durres city. European Scientific Journal, ISSN: 1857 - 7881 (Print), ISSN: 1857 - 7431 (Online), 2013, Vol 9, No 31.
- Kalemi, R. (2013) The Differences between Men and Woman in the Labor Market in Albania (Durres Case), 3 International Conference on Human and Social Sciences ICHSS, Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, September 20-22,2013 Rome, Italy, 10.5901/ajis.2013.v2n8p272.
- Kalemi, R. (2014) Compatibly Of Management System And Ethics In Public Administration (Albanian Case), International Conference On Social Sciences, EUSER, ICCV and MCSS, Bucharest, 19-20 Sep, 2014.
- Kalemi, R. (2015) Compatibly Of Management System and Ethics In Public Administration (Albanian Case), European Center For Science Education And Research, ISBN 9788890916243, 2015.
- Kalemi, R. (2015) The phenomenon of "glass ceiling" in the labor market in Albania. Social Sciences and Social Work in Albania- A Multidisciplinary Approach, Department of Social Work and Political Science, University of Tirana, Tirana, December 10, 2015.
- Kalemi, R. (2015) Administrative Territorial Reform in Albania in Terms of an Ineffective Decentralization Reform. 5-th International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences. Mediterranean Center of Social and Educational Research, Rome, Italy September 25-26, 2015 ISBN: 978-88-909163-28
- Kalemi, R. (2015) Democratization Process in Albania, Dilemmas and Challenges. AIS AAB10-th International Conference Albanian Institute of Sociology, Prishtina, December 2015.
- Kalemi, R. Democratization through Integration in the EU, The Ultimate Chance for Albania, in press
- Kalemi, R. Ceiling Glass and Woman in The Labor Market in Albania, In press
- Meka, E. Minority Protection and Democratic Consolidation: The role of European Integration in the Republic of Macedonia." *Genocide Studies and Prevention*. (Forthcoming: approved for publication).
- Tarifa Fatos, "Shpresat dhe zhgënjimet e tranzicionit demokratik", *Gjeopolitika* (forthcoming in spring 2007);
- Enila Cenko & Fatos Tarifa, Të drejtat e njeriut, siguria humane dhe mirëqënia e qytetarëve [Human Rights, Human Security, and Citizens' Wellbeing], *Academe* (December 2016), Vol. 5 (forthcoming);
- Fatos Tarifa, "Ligji dhe drejtësia" [Law and Justice] *Humanus* (September 2016) No. 2, pp. 11-20.
- Fatos Tarifa, "Në emër të Humanizmit" [In the Name of Humanism], *Humanus* (December 2016), No. 1, pp. 1-12.

2. Tourism & Cultural Heritage Management

This research area includes analysis of various aspects of tourism development in general, and cultural heritage management in particular. As a critical instrument for policy-making as well as efficient managerial decision-making in tourism industry, research will be focused on assessing the sustainability of tourism development in specific regions – not least cross-border – by measuring its economic, socio-cultural and environment impacts. Measuring of the economic impact of tourism-

related or culture-related events in the community will also raise awareness and support managers' decisions accordingly.

Comparative analysis among countries from the region will also provide a valuable instrument for public discourse and policy regarding tourism and heritage management institutionally, but not only.

The research scope of this pillar will also include assessing from demand side of the industry visitors/tourists profile, their demographics, their motivation and satisfaction, as well as from the supply side barriers and constraints of businesses in the industry.

Project2.2: Tourism Management and Branding a Tourist Destination

AUSPICE: CENTRE FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH/ DOCTORAL SCHOOL
LEADER: DR. ARIANA CELA
DURATION: DECEMBER 2017

The impacts of tourism to local communities are widely evidenced in the literature. Heritage tourism, specifically, has been considered as a vital tool for rural regeneration, as a motive for regional cooperation, as an activity shaping community identities, or as a motive for preservation by offering a solid foundation that maintains and sustains natural and built environments. It also enhances socio-cultural development by increasing cultural awareness, understanding and appreciation of cultural identities.

Very importantly, economic impact of heritage tourism are significant in terms of economic injection of money in the economy, property value enhancement, profitability of surrounding businesses or increase of tax base in the region. It also contributes to diversification and stabilization through employment creation in new tourism-related and existing businesses, trade and crafts.

For tourism planners and heritage managers to capitalize on the heritage tourism potential collecting data on visitors profile and spending patterns is crucial. The findings will be instrumental for decision making authorities to better promote city heritage resources.

From another perspective, destination branding is a relatively new research area, “with the first academic conference session convened in 1996, the first journal articles appearing in the late 1990s, and the first book published in 2002” (Pike, 2005, p.258). Moreover, the tourism destination phenomenon is considered to be the tourism related sub-area of a bigger classification that has also stolen a lot of attention, and that is ‘place branding’. Place branding is developed under the premise that cities and regions can be branded same as products and services. This particular project will focus on ‘city branding’, as a sub category of ‘destination branding’. Tirana city, the capital of Albania, will be the subject under investigation. Even though there exist traces of publications on the topic of city branding (Ashworth 2001; Hankinson, 2001, 2004; Trueman et al., 2001, 2004; Hauben et al., 2002; Rainisto, 2003; Kavaratzis and Ashworth, 2006; Lucarelli and Berg 2011; Brandt & Mortanges 2011; Zenker 2011; Zenker, et.al, 2013), there is still a noticeable gap in the literature regarding the branding of cities, and more specifically of real cases of cities in Albania.

New research findings suggest that many industries are neglecting valuable opportunities in connecting with customers’ senses via impression design. The aim of this project is also to point out the potential that design has in creating memorable experiences through sensory marketing, and in turn, influencing consumer behavior. Findings suggest that a combination of different design elements, such as functional, aesthetic and symbolic impression design influence people behavior and have a direct impact on brand image and product success.

Research Team

Project 2, Track 1: Tourism demand and supply

1. Dr. Ariana Cela
2. Iiris Kasapi, Doctoral Student
3. Dr. Macit Koci
4. Gloria Lice, MBA student

Research Output

KASAPI, I Branding Tirana city as a tourism destination from a customer-based brand equity perspective, dissertation in progress.

- KASAPI, I. (2016). A Review of the Branding Literature in the Destination Context: A City Branding emphasis. International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD), Skopje, Macedonia.
- Kasapi, I & Koci, M. Changing tourism behavior: the impact on tourism demand in Albania- MBA thesis completed
- Lice, G. & Koci, M. Tourism in Albania: How to effectively market Albanian tourism in the World- MBA thesis completed
- Cela, A. & Giakoumis K. Heritage Visitors Characteristics and Spending Patterns in Berat, Albania, In preparation.

Research team

Project 2, Track 2. BRANDING AND SENSORY MARKETING

1. Dr. Enila Cenko
2. Dr. Macit Koci
3. Rudin Beka, PhD Candidate
4. Alma Bici, PhD Candidate
5. Margret Plloci, MBA Student
6. Alma Sulaj, MBA Student

Research Output

- Plloci, M. & Koci, M. DETERMINANTS OF CONSUMERS BEHAVIOR FOR BRAND SELECTION IN LAPTOPS BUSINESS IN ALBANIA- MBA Thesis completed.
- Sulaj, A. & Bici, A. DETERMINATION CONSIDERED BY CONSUMERS WITH BRAND SELECTION IN ALBANIA, WITH REFERENCE TO SMARTPHONE- MBA Thesis completed.
- Beka, R. (2013) Impression Management in the Marketing Context: Mediterranean Journal of Social Science, Vol. 4, No. 11, page 467-472, October 2013, ISSN 2039-9340
- Beka, R. (2013) Impression Management in the Marketing Context: Conference Proceedings, ICHSS 2013, 3th International Conference on Human and Social Science, Rome-Italy, Vol. 6, page 467-472, Sept 20-22, 2013, ISBN 978-88-34637-13-0, Publishing Rome
- Beka, R. & Cenko, E. (2015) The Impact of Design on Sensory Marketing and its Effect on the Psychology of Consumer Behavior, Scientific Bulletin of Shkodra University, Economic Science Series 2015, page 86-99, ISSN 2221-6847
- Beka, R. & Cenko E. (2015) Using Impression Design as a Brand Experience Provider: Conference Proceedings, Global Fashion Management Conference Florence, Italy, Global Alliance of Marketing & Management Associations, page 516-531 (June 2015), ISSN: 2288-825X
- Beka R. (2015) The Principles of Spatial Design that Contribute to Customer Experiences, ICRAE 2015 Conference-Proceedings, Third International Conference on Research and Education Challenges Towards the Future, October 23-24, page 84-94, ISSN: 2308-0825
- Beka, R. (2016) Environmental Psychology and Product Design, International Journal of Psychological Studies, Canadian Center of Science and Education, Vol. 8, Nr. 2, June 2016, ISSN:1918-722X

3. Science, Technology & Society

Research under this pillar aims at raising awareness on scientific and technological innovations and their impact for the society. In particular, the activities aim at contributing to the development of novel methodologies and services that exploit technology and that can bring improvement or breakthroughs in society.

The main research activities are related with information technology areas. The rapid growth of information technology has led to the necessity to adopt changes in many processes related to science and technology. In this context, the goal of the research group is to enhance research activities that can bring novelties in fundamental topics of computing and also in application areas. The main research areas are:

- Intelligent Systems and their impact on society
- Knowledge Management and Information Technology
- Computational and Mathematical models for important problems in society
- Role of national and organizational culture in technology acceptance

Project 3.1: Intelligent Systems and their Impact on Society

AUSPICE: CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH/ DOCTORAL SCHOOL
LEADER: PROF. ASSOC. MARENGLÉN BIBA
DURATION: DECEMBER 2017

Summary

Mobile ad-hoc wireless network (MANET) have drawn too much attention to research community due to their important advantages and growing demand, however they appear to be more vulnerable to various attacks than any other kind of network. MANETs are susceptible to various attacks that harm their performance. Intrusion Detection Systems represent the first line of defense against malevolent behavior to MANET, since they monitor network activities in order to detect any malicious attempt performed by intruders. Therefore, the aim of my research study is to develop an intrusion detection framework, which will achieve high detection performance with low false positive rate.

From another perspective, there has been relatively little research in the area of NLP for Albanian language. In order to tackle the different NLP problems and come up with tools/algorithms for those problems, a statistical language model will be designed to take into account the specifics of the Albanian language. Building this model, different NLP problems will be targeted such as POS tagging and automated text classification (such as gender classification, declension as applied mainly to nouns but also pronouns and adjectives). An important ingredient in this work is the language corpus. While Internet provides a huge amount of raw textual information, additional processing and annotation will be needed, to be used efficiently by the model.

Research Team

Project 1, Track 1 MACHINE LEARNING METHODS FOR INTRUSION DETECTION IN MANET

1. Prof. Assoc. Marenglen Biba
2. Dr. Ervin Ramollari
3. Dr. Narasimha Rao Vajjhala
4. Lediona Nishani, Doctoral student

Research Output

- Nishani, L. & Biba, M. (2015) Machine Learning for Intrusion detection in MANET: a State-of-the-art Survey. (2015), J IntellInfSyst (2016) 46:391–407 DOI 10.1007/s10844-015-0387-y Springer Science+Business Media New York 2015.
- Nishani, L. (2015) Chapter: "Review on security threats for mobile devices and significant countermeasures on securing Android Mobiles", Published in the book : Automated Enterprise Systems for Maximizing Business Performance. IGI Global Journal's ISSN (or DOI): ISBN-13: 978- 1466688414 ISBN-10: 1466688416
- Nishani, L. & Biba, M. (2016) Statistical Relational Learning for Collaborative Filtering. This is a chapter related to the book „Collaborative Filtering Using Data Mining and Analysis,, IGI Global.
- Biba, M. Vajjhala, N.R. & Nishani, L. (2016) Visual Data Mining for Collaborative Filtering: A State-Of-The –Art-Survey. This is a chapter related to the book „Collaborative Filtering Using Data Mining and Analysis,, IGI Global.
- Nishani, L. & Biba, M. (2015) Randomizing Ensemble-Based Approaches for Outlier Detection, In Proceedings 4th International Conference on Business, Technology and Innovation 2015, Computer Science and Information Systems, Hotel Bleart, Durrës, Albania, 7 November, 2015.
- Nishani, L. & Biba, M. (2015) Tackling Outlier Detection Through Stochastic Ensemble-Based Approaches, In Proceedings The 3rd International Conference on: "Research and Education- Challenges Towards the Future" ICRAE 2015, University of Shkodra "LuigjGurakuqi" , Shkoder, Albania, October 23, 2015.
- Helshani, L. & Ramollari, E. (2016) Comparative study of Genetic Algorithm and Simulated Annealing Algorithm, In ICTIC –Proceedings in Conference of Informatics and Management Sciences, University of Zilina, Slovakia, April 2016. ISBN: 978-80-554-1196-5, ISSN: 1339-9144, DOI: 10.18638/ictic.2016.5.1.269

Research Teams

Project 1, Track 2 Deep Learning NLP methods applied to Albanian Language

1. Prof. Assoc. Marenglen Biba
2. Elton Ballhysa, Doctoral student

Research Output

Dissertation work is in process.

Research Team

Project 1, Track 3 Intelligent business

1. Assoc. Prof. Marenglen Biba
2. Ervin Muca, MBA student

Research Output

Master Thesis.

Research Team

Project 1, Track 4 Implementation of Management Information Systems

1. DR. NARASIMHA RAO VAJJHALA
2. Arsen Kurti, MBA
3. Alba Likaj, MBA student
4. Erjana Kokoli, MBA student
5. Fation Losha, MBA student
6. Enertil Canaj, MBA student
7. Boreta Gremi, MBA student

Research Output

Gremi, B. & Kurti, A. Managing national information Infrastructure in Albania- Master thesis completed.

Likaj, A. & Narasimha, Implementation of MIS in banking sector- Master Thesis completed.

Kokoli, E. & Narasimha, Estimating demand for mobile application in the new generation - Master Thesis completed.

Losha, F. & Narasimha, Success factors in implementing information systems- Master thesis completed

Canaj, E. & Narasimha, Worldwide evolutionary development of the internet in conducting e-business- Master thesis completed

Project 3.2: Application of Big Data Techniques

AUSPICE: COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

LEADER: DR. NARASIMHA RAO VAJJHALA

DURATION: DECEMBER 2017

Summary

Big Data has been listed as one of the current and future research frontiers by Gartner. Large-sized companies are already investing on and leveraging big data. Small-sized and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can also leverage big data to gain a strategic competitive advantage but are often limited by the lack of adequate financial resources to invest on the technology and manpower. Several big data challenges still exist especially in computer architecture that is CPU-heavy but I/O poor. Cloud computing eliminates the need to maintain expensive computing hardware and software. Cloud computing resources and techniques can be leveraged to address the traditional problems associated with fault tolerance and low performance causing bottlenecks to

using big data. SMEs can take advantage of cloud computing techniques to avail the advantages of big data without significant investments in technology and manpower.

Research Team

1. Dr. Narasimha Rao Vajjhala, University of New York Tirana
2. Professor Kenneth David Strang
3. Professor Zhaohao Sun
4. Dr. Ervin Ramollari, University of New York Tirana

Research Output

Vajjhala, N. R., Strang, K.D., & Sun, Z. (2015). Statistical modeling and visualizing open big data using a terrorism case study. Proceedings of the Open Big Data Conference, Rome: Italy. IEEE.489-496, DOI 10.1109/FiCloud.2015.15.

Vajjhala, N.R. & Ramollari, E. (2016) Big Data using Cloud Computing - Opportunities for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Social Sciences.Dubronik: Croatia.

4. Economies in Transition

This research pillar includes empirical and econometric analysis of various issues faced by economies in transition. The research topics range from economics, labor market and sustainability to business development and organizational culture, international business and trade, operations management, marketing etc.

Project 4.1: An Adriatic Network for Advancing Research Development and Innovation towards the Creation of new Policies for Sustainable Competitiveness and Technological Capacity of SMEs

AUSPICE: ADRIATIC IPA – COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT/ FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS
LEADER: PROF. DR. SUZANA GUXHOLLI FROM JANUARY 2015 (2013 - DECEMBER 2014 PROF. ASSOC. MARENGLÉN BIBA)
DURATION: SEPT. 2016

Summary

ADRIATinn aims to increase the competitiveness of the Adriatic area SMEs (i.e. help them maintain the market share they currently have) and their extroversion capability (i.e. extend their business and penetrate to new markets) through a cross-border ecosystem that fosters ICT adoption, innovation and specialization.

Innovation and networking are the two keys for SMEs sustainable growth which in turns leads to the EU economy improvement. The consortium is built around this rationale: commerce chambers are lobbying organisations representing SMEs and enabling them find mentors and network; prominent R&D institutes enable SMEs to address their needs and assist them produce innovative products and services; regional governments formulate policies and strategies for supporting sectorial innovation and networking.

The proposed strategic, interregional approach will positively affect the whole Adriatic area using most of the building elements indicated in the “Smart Specialization Strategy”.

So far, the research team has conducted the following activities:

- Establishing the dialogue among stakeholders for the purpose of the two consortium workshops.
- Recording of SMEs with RDI capacities and needs.
- Working on success & failure stories of Albanian SMEs Done.
- Gathering information for emerging sectors and cross sector business.
- Working on start-up weekends are organized organization March, and October 2015.
- June 2016 planned to be organized one more.
- 10 Seminars and lectures about innovation and starting and supporting business idea organized during 2015-2016. Still going on.

- Regional Database with businesses involved into innovation created and UNYT had the highest contribution.
- Colab is created to serve business ideas.

Project 4.2: Industrial Citizenship and Migration from Western Balkans. A Migrant Centered Study of Albania-Greece and Kosovo-Germany Migration

AUSPICE: RRPP & CENTER FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH

LEADER: DR. E. CARO

DURATION: JULY 2016

Summary

This is a project investigating the experience of industrial citizenship (IC) of labor migrants coming from the Western Balkans (WB) to the European Union. The project is migrant-focused, we rely primarily on accounts by the migrants themselves, to understand their motives and strategies, and the ways in which they benefit from migration.

We look at migrants who move from Albania to Greece and from Kosovo to Germany but also at the return migrants, especially in the case of return migration from Greece as a prevalent trend the last years. IC, a concept developed in the 1950s by TH Marshall¹, implies both labour rights and participation of the workers in the economic decision making of society via institutions of industrial democracy. It is best defined by Crouch², as “the acquisition by employees of rights within the employment relationship, rights which go beyond, and are secured by forces external to, the position which employees are able to win purely through labour market forces”. We see IC as vulnerable to the competitive dynamics created by regime competition, and argue that labour mobility (migration) results in regime competition. Migrants are often disadvantaged in the labour markets in destination countries, in terms of rights and opportunities.

Within the EU, there has been an effort to construct an internal labour market through free mobility of labour, supported by the extension of certain rights and protections to member state citizens outside their home country. One can now speak of citizenship of the EU, which as a concept raises questions about the relationship and treatment of EU citizens in comparison to non EU citizens. We share the concern of Höpner and Schäfer that the dynamics of European integration undermine practical access to many aspects of citizenship rights, even as those rights related to mobility are increased.

We believe the best way to investigate migrants understanding of and access to IC is through intensive discussions with the migrants themselves. Firstly, we ask what is the meaning IC has for migrant workers for whom IC is very significant. Secondly, we ask how such labour can achieve IC. We will conduct biographic interviews of Albanians mobile to Greece, and Albanians from Kosovo mobile to Germany interviewing each individual on three occasions to establish the relationship between migration histories, strategies and contexts, and practical access to IC. Our concern is that in many respects, in the context of the development WB-EU labour markets, access to IC appears to be differentiating, according to factors such as social class, migration status and type, gender, ethnicity and nationality (given that both countries are not EU members). While EU mobility rights

have positively affected the lives of millions across the EU, there is also the danger that the dynamics created by this mobility is creating a hypermobile underclass lacking practical access to the full range of IC rights. In this IC project we will systematically follow migrants over time, placing their experiences in the context of their broader lives, family situations, and home country communities.

Research Team

1. Dr. E. Caro, Lead Researcher, erkac.e.caro@jyu.fi.
2. Armela Xhaho, Research Fellow

Research Output

- Caro, E. (2016) Challenges of the New Migration in Western Balkans (2-6 April, 2016 in Graz Austria) - Inaugural speech at Regional Studies Association Annual Conference 2016 as the winner of the Early Career Plenary speaker
- Caro, E. (2015) The fall of the Communist Regime in Albania as depicted in the Foreign Media in the early 90s International Conference on Media and Memory Covering the Communist Past: Media Transformation and Memory in Albania, Tirana, and November 2015.
- Caro, E. (2015) Being the Good Worker: What It Means for Albanian Labour Migrants to be Successful in the Italian Host Society, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics International Conference, London, July 2015.
- Dushi, M. & Caro, E. (2016) Industrial Citizenship perceptions among Kosovar “Gestarbeiter’s” in Germany and Switzerland, International Conference “Labour Migration in the European Peripheries University of Jyväskylä” April 26-27, 2016.
- Caro, E. (2016) Exclusion and Strategies to Inclusion: Albanian Labour Migrants in Greece, International Conference “Labour Migration in the European Peripheries University of Jyväskylä” April 26-27, 2016.
- Xhaho, A., Caro, E., & Dushi, M. (2016) Gendered patterns of emancipation and integrations of Albanian migrant women in three host societies: Greece, Germany and Switzerland, International Conference “Labour Migration in the European Peripheries University of Jyväskylä” April 26-27, 2016.
- Caro, E. (June 2015). Experiences of Albanian and Estonian women migrants in the service sector in Italy and Finland and Greece. Migration, Development and Citizenship: Examining the Nexus Between the Arrangement of Migrant Lives and (Global/National) Political and Economic Regimes, VU University Amsterdam.
- Dushi, M. (2015) “Home” for Now or “Home” for Life. Migration Memories of Kosovan Albanian Migrants in West European Countries, Annual Conference ‘Memory, Migration ,the City and its Museum’, which was realized Moscow between 2 and 4 September 2015, International Conference: Transition In Retrospect -25 Years After The Fall Of Communism Tirana, November 27-28, 2015. Paper: Moving Identities: (Re) integration struggles of return Albanian labor migrants from Greece Erka CARO
- AIS Symposium-Albania 25 years after communism: Rebuilding state and society, Tirana November 2015. Paper: “Albanians in crossroad: 25 years of migration”. Erka CARO
- ICM Conference 13-14 November 2015 : Industrial Citizenship and Migration from Western Balkans. Case studies from Albania and Kosovo migration towards Greece, Germany and Switzerland, Erka ÇARO&Mimoza DUSHI

- ICM Conference 13-14 November 2015: "Home" for Now or "Home" for Life. Migration Memories of Kosovan Albanian Migrants in West European Countries, Mimoza DUSHI
- ICM Conference 13-14 November 2015: Emigration and Trade Unions in Eastern Europe: The cases of Albania and Estonia, Sonila DANAJ ,Kairit KALL and Erka ÇARO
- ICM Conference 13-14 November 2015: Engendering Empowerment in the Private/Public Dichotomy: Albanian Migrant Women as the New Breadwinners, ArmelaXHAHO,ErkaCARO,Elvira FETAHU
- Labour Markets Competitive Norms and Trade Unions: Cases of Albanian migrants in Italy and Greece and of Estonians in Finland, Sonila Danaj, Erka Caro, Laura Mankki, and MarkkuSippola
- Identification of Barriers that Conditions and Limits the Possibilities of Women for a Sustainable Entrepreneurship by ArmelaXhaho, Elvira Fetahu, AjezaToci. 4th International Conference. International of Southern Eastern Europe in Western Balkans - Albanian's case. July 2015, Tirana.
- "Industrial Citizenship and Migration from the Western Balkans: Migration from Albania and Kosovo towards Greece, Germany and Switzerland" presentation in the 6th RRPP Annual Conference 2015 ,Ohrid, Macedonia (Erka Caro and ArmelaXhaho)
- 'National identities in motion: (Re) integration struggles of return Albanian labor migrants from Greece' presentation at the international Conference on Migration, Citizenship and Development in a neoliberal era, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 'How to explore throughsuperdiversity the Industrial Citizenship and Labour Mobility of Albanian migrants to Greece and Italy' Presentation at the SUPERDIVERSITY and INTERSECTIONALITY workshop, Jyvaskyla, Finland
- "Industrial Citizenship and Migration from the Western Balkans: Migration from Albania and Kosovo towards Greece, Germany and Switzerland" presentation at the University of Greenwich workshop "Marketization and neoliberal restructuring in Europe", London, UK
- Xhaho, A., & Caro, E. (May 2015). General overview of trade unions in Albania: Struggling for legitimacy and workers' rights. The State, Society and Law: Albanians 25 Years from the Changes of Systems International Scientific Conference, Durres.
- "Home" for now or "Home" for life. Migration memories of Kosovan Albanian Migrants in Germany and Switzerland (emotional aspect), 3rd ISA Forum of Sociology, Vienna Austria, 10 – 14 July 2016 (accepted)
- Unions in Post-Communist Albania: Problems of Organization and Solidarity in the Times Crisis,"ISA Forum of Sociology, Vienna Austria, 10 – 14 July 2016 (accepted)
- "Children are integrated". Perception of integration among different generations of Kosovan migrants in Germany and Switzerland" 16th International Conference on Migration, 23-25 June 2016, Innsbruch Austria
- "Thinking Migration to Rethink the World , 30th Anniversary of Migrations internationales, espaces et societies" University of Poitiers, France ,June 21-24, 2016. Doctoral student day "Challenges of ethnobiographical research with migrants" (ArmelaXhaho accepted)
- Posted Migration and Segregation in the European Construction SectorErka Caro, Lisa Berntsen, Nathan Lillie , Ines Wagner Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies . Vol. 41, Iss. 10, 2015
- Trade Unions in Albania: Struggling between legitimacy and worker's rights' KerkimeGjeografike nr. 18, 2015, FSHMN – UP, Sonila Danaj, Erka Caro, ArmelaXhaho

Title "Influence of Migration in Women Emancipation. Case study from Kosovan Albanian Diaspora"
,The journal International Letters of Social and Humanistic Sciences, Swiss Publishing House. MimozaDushi

Paradoxes of feminization of labour in the time of Austerity: Working migrant women in the service sector context of Greece, Italy, Finland, Erka Caro and Nathan Lillie (Commissioned book chapter). Book on Marketization in Europe, editor prof. Ian Greer (Cornel University ,USA, Expected Publication, Winter, 2017)

Labour Migrants and Union Membership: Labour Market Dilemmas of Albanians in Italy, Greece and Estonians in Finland. Sonila Danaj, ErkaÇaro, Laura Mankki and MarkkuSippola (Book Chapter). Book: "Labour unions and the politics of institutional change in Europe: Towards new forms of social solidarity". Editors, prof. Virginia Doellgast (Cornel University, USA), prof. Nathan Lillie (University of Jyväskylä, Finland) and prof. Valeria Pugliano (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium) (Oxford Press, expected publication May, 2017)

The fall of the Communist Regime in Albania as depicted in the Foreign Media in the early 90s (Erka Caro and Sonila Danaj) Book chapter in an edited volume, in Press)

Caro, E., & Danaj, S. Rënia e Regjimit Komunist në Shqipëri sipas Mediave Nderkombetare në Fillimet e Viteve 90, Book Chapter in an edited volume /Albanian Language, in Press)

Project 4.3: Economics, Labor market and Sustainability

AUSPICE: CENTER FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH

LEADER: PROF. ASSOC. JUNA MILUKA

DURATION: DECEMBER 2017

Summary

The focus of this project is mainly on microeconomics, but does not exclude macroeconomics and institutionalist approaches. On a broader sense, the research analyzes issues of economic development, be those impeding or encouraging forces. The focus is on understanding aspects of the economy and society that move or suppress these economies of advancing and further developing. Research relates to issues such as labor market participation, migration and education, gender wage-gap, poverty and living conditions, sustainability etc. It is also inclusive of gender and regional issues under an economics lens. The project will also focus on populations change through three major processes such as fertility, migration and mortality.

A specific track of this project is on private returns to education, an area that has received much attention in the literature and there are many studies for various countries on the issue. Nonetheless, less is known of the issue in developing countries and these studies are missing for Albania where little is known regarding private returns to education. A major characteristic of labor market in Albania is the disparity between males and females. It is well documented that women in the labor market lag behind in terms of employment and wages; they have higher unemployment rates, higher inactivity rates which translate into lower labor force participation rates, mainly due to household responsibilities.

Research Team

Project 3, Track 1 RETURNS TO EDUCATION IN THE ALBANIAN LABOR MARKET

1. PROF.ASSOC. JUNA MILUKA

Research Output

Miluka J. & Tsushima, R. (2015) Determinants of Women' Labor Participation and Economic Empowerment in Albania, presented in International Conference "Transition in Retrospect- 25 Years after the Fall of Communism", 27-28 November 2015, Tirana, Albania

Research Team

Project 3, Track 2 DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF WOMAN FERTILITY IN ALBANIA USING DATA MINING TOOLS

1. Dr. Ines Nurja, inesnurja@unyt.edu.al
2. Ogerta Elezaj, Department of Statistics and Informatics, Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana, elezaj_ogerta@yahoo.com

Research Output

Abstract accepted to 7th International Conference on Information Systems and Technology Innovations: the New Paradigm for a Smarter Economy, organized by Department of Statistics and Applied Informatics, Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana, June 17-18, 2016, Tirana

Research Team

Project 3, Track 3 DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, PUBLIC FINANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA

1. Prof. Assoc. Juna Miluka
2. Prof. Suzana Guxholli
3. Dr. Ariana Cela
4. Dr. Arben Zibri
5. Ardita Hykaj, Master of Finance student
6. Sonila Hysi, MBA student
7. Jonida Thaci- MBA student
8. Endrit Abazi- MBA student
9. Sofjana Buhajoti- Master of Finance student
10. Bruna Milo- MBA student
11. Frenklin Skuqi- MBA student
12. Arjan Hana- MBA student
13. Arba Merkoci- MBA student
14. Other MBA and Master of Finance students

Research Output

Hykaj, A. & Miluka, J. Corruption and its effect on economic growth: Gender equality in Albania.- Master thesis completed

Hysi, S. & Cela A. Expenditure Analysis of Public Budget- Master thesis completed

Thaci, J. & Guxholli, S. Econometrics of crude oil market dynamics- Master thesis completed

Abazi, E. & Zibri, A. The impact of non performing loans in the economic sustainability in transition countries: Albania case- thesis in process.

Buhaljoti, S. & Kidoniatis, P. Unemployment and employment policies in Albania- Master thesis completed

Milo, B. & Rawat, M. Problems of Social security reform in Albania- Master thesis completed.

Skuqi, F. & Xhepa, S. Volunatary pension funds in Albania- Master thesis completed.

Hana, A. & Xhepa, S. After war real estate and construction in Kosova and the impact of the international crisis of 2008 in IT- Master thesis completed.

Merkoci, A. & Miluka, J. Is Albanian market ready to buy a luxury cosmetic in pharmacies? – Master thesis completed.

Biba, E. & Kukeli, A. REAL ESTATE OPTION CONTRACTS, ANALYSIS AND APPLICATIONS- Master thesis completed.

Bllako, A. & Miluka, J. FLAT TAXATION- Master thesis completed.

Lelaj, A. & Tanku, A. TRANSFER PRICING TECHNIQUES, CONTROL & PREVENTION- Master thesis completed.

Rrustemaj, a. & Falter, J. TO GIVE A CONTRIBUTION FOR FULL RECOGNITION AS THE FISCAL SYSTEM IN OUR COUNTRY AND ITS FUNCTIONING BUT ALSO TO PRESENT COMPOSITION OF SOME PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT WHICH IS VAT.- Master thesis completed.

Shyti, L. & Binaj, I. PREDICTION OF STOCK PRICES USING COMPANY FUNDAMENTALS AND LOGISTIC REGRESSION- Master thesis completed.

Yzeiraj, E. & Binaj, I. EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT MACROECONOMICS FACTORS ON THE LEVEL OF INFLATION IN ALBANIA, Master thesis completed.

Bilcari, F. & Falter, J. FINANCIAL RATIOS DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS AND THE PREDICTION OF CORPORATE BANKRUPTCY, Master thesis completed.

Boka, N. & Xhepa, S. THE IMPACT OF PROGRESSIVE TAX ON ALBANIAN ECONOMY IN 2014. WAS IT THE RIGHT SOLUTION?- Master thesis completed.

Pepa, B. & Guxholli, S. THE INTERACTION OF MACROECONOMIC FACTORS ON THE PRICE OF REAL ESTATE.- Master thesis completed.

Qafmolla, B. & Kazi, M. THE EFFICIENCY OF MICROFINANCE IN ALBANIA, Master thesis completed.

Tasi, A. & Zibri, A. DOES ALTMAN'S Z-SCORE MODEL STILL PROVIDE RELIABLE INFORMATION IN FORECASTING A COMPANY'S FAILURE? CASES FROM THE RECENT FINANCIAL CRISIS- Master thesis completed.

Tepshi, A. & Falter, J. THE EFFECTS OF INDEX REBALANCING: AN EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM THE ITALIAN MARKET- Master thesis completed.

Dafa, T. & Nurja, I. THE IMPACT OF LOGISTICS IN TRANSPORT IN ALBANIAN ECONOMY AND COMPETITIVENESS IN THE REGION- Master thesis completed.

Kuqo, B. & Zibri, A. IMPACT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS IN ALBANIAN COMPANIES PERFORMANCE, Master thesis completed.

Mura-Doda, A. & Nurja, I. FINANCIAL SYSTEM. HOW FISCAL SYSTEM AND TAX POLICY IN ALBANIA AFFECT ALBANIAN BUSINESSES?, Master thesis completed.

Nerguti, M. & Guxholli, S. IMPACT OF EXCISE TAXES IN ALBANIA, Master thesis completed.

Pilua, L. & Stringa, A. ESTIMATING THE DETERMINANTS OF REAL ESTATE PRICES IN TIRANA- Master thesis in process.

Xhaferri, R. & Guxholli, S. THE EFFECT OF TAXES SYSTEM IN ALBANIA, Master thesis completed.

- Filja, E. & Falter, J. CREATING AND MEASURING SHAREHOLDER VALUE- Master thesis completed.
- Gurakuqi, I. & Mamut, A. EARNINGS MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE MANIPULATION OF REAL ACTIVITIES THAT AFFECT CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS, Master thesis completed.
- Vllahu, A. & Zibri, A. AN APPLICATION OF BLACK - LITTERMAN MODEL IN A GLOBAL PORTFOLIO OF ASSETS- Master thesis completed.
- Kallacej, N. & Guxholli, S. THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- Master thesis completed.
- Ibrahimi, K. & Xhepa, S. STUDY OF PURCHASING INFLUENCING FACTORS TOWARDS CAR MARKET- Master thesis completed.
- Minxuri, S. & Kadareja, A. CORRELATIONS BETWEEN THE ALBANIAN ECONOMY AND HEALTHY LENDING - A TWO WAY APPROACH- Master thesis completed.

Project 4.4: Challenges of Banking and Financial Markets for a Better Corporate Governance and Public Efficiency

AUSPICE: CENTER FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH/ DOCTORAL SCHOOL
 LEADER: PROF. DR. SUZANA GUXHOLLI
 DURATION: DECEMBER 2017

Summary

Banking industry has been one of the most regulated industries worldwide, ensuring liquidity and efficiency in the market. One of the most important regulations and object of many studies for more than 20 years concerns capital requirements regulation, which ensures the banks' economic soundness, competitiveness and expansion strategy. The framework of Basel standards gives the opportunity to banks and supervisors to select the most appropriate for their operations and financial infrastructure approaches and also to adapt these standards to different conditions in the banking market. As a consequence of the above, a larger research effort from scientists all over the world has considered of importance to indicate the consequences of the adoption of the standards in the bank's behavior in many aspects, as that of risk, credit supply, performance and in an expanded version of macroeconomic effects. In the above context it is to be analyzed the behavior of the Albanian market and banking institutions with the adoption of an empirical model to define banks' behavior towards risk under these requirements. Electronic money is also discussed.

The lessons from the crises and scandals in so many sectors such as finance, real estate, energy, banking etc, the increase of bribery and corruption cases, all point to repositioning and multitasking audit (internal especially) to help and support governing bodies within the companies. The public sector spends taxpayer's money to provide quality public services and it needs better governances as well as private one. Good governance leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement and, ultimately, good outcomes. Under such situation, corporate governance is also being examined more closely.

The research also aims to measure the efficiency of decion making about Public Investments because they are directly connected with the efficiency and transparency of tax uses. Financial

consolidation as a characteristic of latest governmental policies is valued vs analyses of investments (such as Cost Benefit Analyses as leading approach of public investments). On the other hand decision makers fail to answer the dilemmas about where to spend public money, how much should the investment be public or private etc.

Research Team

Project 4, Track 1 BANKING AND FINANCIAL MARKETS, THE CHALLENGES OF ADOPTING BASEL II AND OPERATIONS RISKS

1. Prof. Suzana Guxholli
2. Prof. Assoc. Agim Mamuti
3. Dr. Andromahi Kufo
4. Dr. Ines Nurja
5. Risilda Djala, undergraduate student, Epoka University
6. Elvis Bregu, Doctoral Student
7. Ledia Canga, Research Assistant
8. Other students

Research Output

- Ganiç, M. & Mamuti, A. (2016, May 11-15). Developments, trends and features of financial integration in the Western Region, cross-country comparisons. Paper presented in the 3rd International Congress on Accounting and Finance Research, Zonguldak, Turkey and to be published in Special issue of an International Journal
- Kufo, A. (2015) Albanian banking system: risk behavior and capital requirements”, Journal of Applied Economics and Business, Vol. 3, Issue 2, June 2015, online **ISSN: 1857- 8721**.
- Kufo, A & Kripa D., (2015) Capital, risk and efficiency: a simple regression on the Albanian banking sector”, Albanian Socio-Economic Review, Vol. 83, Issue 2, July 2015, **ISSN: 2222-5846, ISSN: 2312-5349**.
- Nurja, I. & Kufo, A. (2016) Non-performing loans and government taxes in the Albanian banking system, paper accepted in International Conference on Sustainable Development, 19-23 October 2016, Skopje, Macedonia.
- Guxholli, S. & Canga, L. (2016) Liquidity in the Albanian banking system, paper presented in 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development, 19-23 October 2016, Skopje, Macedonia.
- Fetishi, M. & Dhuci, O. RISK IDENTIFICATION MODELS OF COMPANIES BANKRUPTCIES- Master thesis completed
- Halili, O. & Dhuci, O. HEDGING STRATEGIES USED IN PETROLEUM MARKET. ITEMS INFLUENCING PETROLEUM PRICES IN EURO ZONE AND ALBANIA.- Master thesis completed.
- Nini, O. & Guxholli, S. UNDERSTANDING AND ANALYZING THE GREEK DEBT AFTER GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS!- Master thesis completed.
- Ademi, J. & Dhuci, O. FINANCIAL CONTAGION, ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE GREEK CRISES IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Bejko, B. & Rawat, M. Financial Risk Perception and Mitigation in Microfinance- Master thesis completed.

Kambo, F. & Dhuci, O. CENTRALIZATION OF CREDIT DECISIONS THROUGH LOCAL BANKS IN ALBANIA, Master thesis completed.

Berova, F. & Malaj, A. THE ALBANIAN BANKS MARKETING- Master thesis completed.

Muka, A. & Rawat, M. A MARKET ANALYSIS OF THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENTAL BONDS, DURING 2006-2011- Master thesis completed

Musaku, A. & Kadareja, A. THE RISKS OF FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT IN ALBANIAN BANKING SYSTEM- Master thesis completed.

Cico, E. & Kukeli, A. SUSTAINABLE COST REDUCTION AND COST MANAGEMENT IN THE BANKING SYSTEM DURING FINANCIAL CRISES- Master thesis completed.

Xhumari, A. & Katsarellos, D. PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF ELECTRONIC BANKING, Master thesis completed.

Mulliri, A. & Kadareja, A. PCI DSS COMPLIANCE IN BANKING SECTOR, Master thesis completed.

Koxhaj, K. & Katsarellos, D. MARKETING PLAN OF A NEW BANK THAT IS GOING TO BE PART OF OUR BANKING SYSTEM- Master thesis completed.

Keta, D. & Kadareja, A. CHALLENGES AND ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTING BASEL 2 IN ALBANIAN BANKING SECTOR- Master thesis completed.

Gacaj, U. & Zibri, A. DEVELOPMENTS OF PUBLIC DEPT IN ALBANIA. ANALYSIS ON ITS IMPACT ON THE BANKING SYSTEM- Master thesis completed.

Dimce, J. & Dhuci, O. MONEY MARKET IN ALBANIA AND ITS INSTRUMENTS- Master thesis completed.

Dauti, M. & Rawat, M. IDENTIFYING & EXAMINING THE ADEQUACY OF ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING IN ALBANIAN BANKING INDUSTRY- Master thesis completed.

Diendorfer, O. & Dervishi, P. CONCEPTUALIZATION AND DESIGN OF A NEW BANKING PRODUCT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

Kakeli, I. & Kadareja, A. BANK RISK MANAGEMENT- Master thesis completed.

Kota, G. & Kukeli, A. CREDIT RISK PROCEDURE IN CREDIT AGRICOLE ALBANIA BANK- Master thesis completed.

Kota, O. & Katsarellos, D. THE ROAD TO SUCCESS: THE TRANSFORMATION CASE OF SOCIETE GENERALE ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

Musmuca, I. & Dhuci, O. RETAIL BANKING ACTIVITY- Master thesis completed.

Zaric, A. & Roufaiel, N. THE ROLE OF INVESTMENTS FIRMS IN DESIGNING, ACHIEVING AND IMPROVING THE OPTIMUM CAPITAL STRUCTURE WITHIN THE PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANIES IN SERBIA- Master thesis completed.

Zhupa, I. & Katsarellos, D. CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT BASED ON SCORING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES- Master thesis completed,

Isaj, B. & Drougkas, P. RETAIL BANKING IN ALBANIA-CONVERTING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES- Master thesis completed.

Celi, D. & Kougionas, I. EARNINGS IMPACT OF EARNINGS MANAGEMENT THROUGH ACCRUALS- Master thesis completed.

Likaj, E. & Tanku, A. IMPACT OF CAPITAL STRUCTURE ON THE PROFITABILITY OF BANKS IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

Sinjari, Xh. & Falter, J. IMPACT OF SUBPRIME MORTGAGE CRISES ON MAJOR US BANKS- Master thesis completed.

Zeneli, M. & Falter, J. NON – PERFORMING LOANS IN ALBANIAN BANKING SYSTEM- Master thesis completed.

Berisha, A. & Binaj, I. CREDIT ACCESS IN THE BANKING SECTOR / EVIDENCE FROM SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMES) IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

- Hyseni, I. & Kukeli, A. CORPORATE CREDIT PORTFOLIO OF BANK AND MEASUREMENT OF CREDIT RISK- Master thesis completed.
- Kadija, S. & Kadareja, A. NON-PERFORMING LOANS IN THE ALBANIAN BANKING SYSTEM- Master thesis completed.
- Kacorri, A. & Falter, J. BANK EFFICIENCY & FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Ramabanaj, A. & Bozdo, J. CREDIT RISK IN ALBANIAN BANKING SYSTEM- Master thesis completed.
- Vrenozi, A. & Dhuci, O. STRESS-TESTING THE BANKING SECTOR: THE CASE OF THE ALBANIAN BANKING SYSTEM- Master thesis completed.
- Jakupi, G., & Kufo, A. THE RELATIONSHIP OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND PROFITABILITY IN THE BANKING SECTOR OF ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Hatellari, D. & Dhuci, O. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IFRS 9 IMPAIRMENTS BY BANKS IN ALBANIA- Completed
- Mele, J. & Dhuci, O. RISKS FACED BY NON-LIFE INSURERS, WITH A FOCUS ON EARLY WARNING TESTS UTILIZED BY ALBANIAN SUPERVISORS- Master thesis completed.

Research Team

Project 4, Track 2 AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING

1. Prof. Dr. Suzana GUXHOLLI
2. Assoc. Prof. Agim Mamuti
3. Prof. Dr. Vjollca Karapici

Research Output

- Guxholli, S. & Karapici, V. (2015) Internal Auditing –A world leading approach, for better corporate governance presented in International Conference “Transition in Retrospect- 25 Years after the Fall of Communism”, 27-28 November 2015, Tirana, Albania.
- Agim Mamuti, Robert McGee, Tax Evasion as a Crime: A Survey of Perception in Kosovo, 5th International Conference on Management, Business and Economics IC - MBE 2016, Book of Abstracts: 978-9951-437-36-3, Proceedings: 978-9951-550-12-3 October, 2016, Durrës, Albania
- Pinar Doğanay Payziner, Okan Özkan, Agim Mamuti, A New Trend in Sustainability and Responsibility Accounting for Hospitals: Green Accounting International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD), Book of Abstracts: 978-605-66262-7-2, Proceedings: 978-605-66262-6-5 Skopje, October, 2016
- Agim Mamuti, Mehmed Ganic, Quantitative and Qualitative Aspects of Remittances, Comparative Analysis of Albania and Macedonia, International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD), Book of Abstracts: 978-605-66262-7-2, Proceedings: 978-605-66262-6-5 Skopje, October, 2016
- Krasniqi, E. & Xhepa, S. ACCOUNTING AND TAX TREATMENT OF LEASE FINANCING IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

Zharkalli, N. & Dhuci, O. EVALUATION OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS APPLICATION FOR NON-FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

Research Team

Project 4, Track 3 COST BENEFIT ANALYSES AS AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC FUNDS ALLOCATION AND USE

1. Prof. Dr. Suzana Guxholli
2. Dr. Blerta Zilja, Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana

Research Output

Paper in preparation for publication.

Project 4.5: Business Development and Management, and Project Evaluation to Guarantee Successful Performance

AUSPICE: CENTER FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH/ DOCTORAL SCHOOL

LEADER: DR. PERPARIM DERVISHI

DURATION: DECEMBER 2017

Summary

This project's purpose is to explore Albanian public sector employees' motivation and the most typical managerial and leadership styles that prevail in the Albanian Private and Public Sectors. The research shall be conducted in several organizations that belong to different industries and public entities. The findings on actual leadership styles and management approaches shall be compared with what employees want to see in their managers and leaders' styles in their organizations.

From another perspective, literature review so far, reveals that many studies have been discussing the issue of IT project selection and associated investment decisions, but very few authors have considered how organizations settle on project evaluation which fosters the main source of success. Therefore, this research aims at exploring on one hand project evaluation process together with the techniques or methods concerned, in order to understand how project evaluation is made, and the IT project management environment at the other hand.

The project will also explore how SMEs in transition economies can benefit from leveraging strategically the knowledge assets in the organization. Most organizations, particularly knowledge-based organizations invest significantly in intellectual resources, including individual employee training. However, only some organizations obtain benefit from these investments. Unless organizations plan to strategically leverage the intellectual capital, they are likely to lose their strategic competitive advantage. Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in transition economies often fail to invest in knowledge management activities because of limited financial and human resources.

A special focus of the project will be dedicated to lean management. Exploring the applicability and development of a lean service model for improving services production productivity will be a valuable contribution to operations management, as well as will provide empirical evidence for the effective management of productivity improvement efforts in service companies. The purpose of this project is also to develop an extended Lean Service model for the service sector. That will be achieved by developing a roadmap of Lean Service implementation by carefully including all the critical elements that lead to a successful adoption of Lean Thinking.

Research Team

Project 5, Track 1 UNDERSTANDING WHAT MOTIVATES EMPLOYEES

1. Dr. Perparim Dervishi
2. Matilda Lopari, Doctoral Student
3. Other MBA students

Research Output

Lopari, M. and Pepa, V. (2015). Public Employees' Motivation: A Case of the Municipality of Elbasan, Albania. Paper presented at the 5th International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences, Rome, Italy. ISBN: 978-88-909163-6-6

Lopari, M. and Pepa, V. (2015). Public Employees' Motivation: A Case of the Municipality of Elbasan, Albania. Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 4 (3), 607-613

E-ISSN: 2281-4612 ISSN: 2281-3993

Ulliri, D. & Shtembari, E. WHAT MOTIVATES ALBANIAN WOMEN TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS?- Master thesis completed.

Allushi, A. & Dervishi, P. AN EVALUATION OF MOTIVATION MODELS AND LEADERSHIP STYLES AT TIRANA MUNICIPALITY- Master thesis completed.

Bega, E. & Dervishi, P. EMPLOYEE MOTIVATION LEADING TO IMPROVED PERFORMANCE AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION- Master thesis completed.

Sulaj, M. & Dervishi, P. THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPLOYEES MOTIVATION IN WORKPLACES- Master thesis completed.

Lleshi, R. & Murschetz. COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE THROUGH EMPLOYEE MOTIVATION- Master thesis completed.

Research Team

Project 5, Track 2 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND THE TYPICAL LEADERSHIP STYLES AND ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

1. Dr. Perparim Dervishi
2. Matilda Lopari, Doctoral Student
3. Anisa Varaku, MBA Student
4. Other MBA students

Research Output

Varaku, A. & Dervishi, P. INEQUALITIES BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS IN ALBANIA- Master thesis in process.

Berberi, G. & Tanku, A. BERAT BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OCCURRENCE- Master thesis completed.

Dyrmishi, D. & Xhepa, S. MANAGING PROBLEMS IN RETAIL COMPANIES- Master thesis completed.

Boka, E. & Papagkikas, P. RETAIL IN SHOPPING MALLS IN ALBANIA, IMPACT OF CRISIS IN MARKET AND COMPETITION- Master thesis completed.

Paskali, N. & Kakouris A. AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE ALBANIAN ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE WITH REGARD TO PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES- Master thesis completed.

Xheli, S. & Samakovitis. THE USE OF ANALYTICS FROM CORPORATIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE- Master thesis completed.

Jaupi, V. & Boros, L. THE STRESS IN WORK ENVIRONMENT- Master thesis completed.

Troqe, A. & Dervishi, P. ALBANIAN NATIONAL CULTURE & IT'S IMPACT ON ORGANISATION'S MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP STYLES- Master thesis completed.

Kalaja, B. & Cela, A. HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT IN THE HEALTHSYSTEM- Master thesis completed.

Ndreka, M. & Ciko, I. ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION AT PROFARMA SH.A." A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY IN TIRANA, ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

Daja, E. & Neal, H. BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE AS THE SUPPORT OF DECISION MAKING PROCESS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY- Master thesis completed.

Dalipaj, G. & Papagkikas. P. LEADERSHIP STYLE AND EMPLOYEE MOTIVATION IN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN THE FIER CITY- Master thesis completed.

Goci, N. & Bici, A. ARTIGIANO" A FAST CASUAL BUSINESS- Master thesis completed.

Hamitaj, O. & Neal, H.B. CREATING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS- Master thesis completed.

Luka, B. & Murschetz. PROBLEMS OF CELESI MADE GROUP TO ADAPT TO MARKET CHANGES- Master thesis completed.

Panarit, I. & Neal, H.B. INTELELCTUAL PROPERTY AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT- Master thesis completed.

Hajdaraj, A. & Boros, L. CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL NON-MONETARY REWARD SYSTEMS AT TELECOM COMPANIES IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

Llakmani, G. & Pattison, W. STRATEGIC PLANNING AT PUMA-AG- Master thesis completed.

Metko, Sh. & Cela, A. SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME) AND THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.

Piero, J. & Kidonniatis, P. CHALLENGES OF ALBANIAN SME IN THE CONTEXT OF EU INTEGRATION- Master thesis completed.

Research Team

Project 5, Track 3 INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES

1. Dr. Narasimha Rao Vajjhala,
2. Dr. Jelena Vucetic, University of Phoenix, USA
3. Dr. Fabio Daneri
4. Suela Zina, MBA student
5. Other MBA Students

Research Output

- Vajjhala, N.R. & Vucetic, J. (2016). Strategic Knowledge Management in Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises in Transition Economies – Case of Albania. Proceedings of Management, Knowledge, and Learning & Technology, Innovation and Industrial Management Joint International Conference, Timisoara: Romania.
- Vajjhala, N. R., (2016). Communities of Practice in Transition Economies. Organizational Knowledge Facilitation through Communities of Practice in Emerging Markets, NY: IGI Global. ISBN: 9781522500131. DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-0013-1. Link: <http://www.igi-global.com/book/organizational-knowledge-facilitation-through-communities/141943>
- Vangjeli, A. & Sobral, F. IT DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN AN ALBANIAN COMMERCIAL BANK- Thesis completed.
- Zina, S. & Daneri, F. DOES THE EVOLUTION IN TECHNOLOGY AFFECT OUR JOBS?- Master thesis completed.
- Bare, D. & Herendi, M. INNOVATION & CHANGE MANAGEMENT IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES IN EUROPE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Kapllanaj, E. & Cela, A. THE MANAGEMENT OF MARKET CHANGE- Master thesis completed.
- Janku, B. & Papagkikas, P. BUSINESS PROCESSES & ROLE OF SOFTWARE PROJECT MANAGEMENT- Master thesis completed.
- Ramo, E. & Narasimha, R. THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE ASSETS IN ALBANIAN ORGANIZATIONS- Master thesis completed.

Research team

Project 5, Track 4 OPERATIONS AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

1. Dr. Andreas Kakouris
2. Dr. Eriona Shtembari
3. Matilda Lopari, Phd Candidate
4. Other MBA Students

Research Output

- Lopari, M. Dissertation work is in progress.
- Shtembari, E. Project Evaluation – A Tool For Successful New Service Development in progress
- Shtylla, O. & Kakouris, A. SUPPLY CHAIN SEGMENTATION- Master thesis completed.
- Brahimi A. & Kakouris, A. AN APPLICATION OF THE DELPHI TECHNIQUE TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETING: SELECTION OF AN OVERSEAS DISTRIBUTOR- Master thesis completed.
- Bego, K. & Pattison, W. PROCESS REDESIGN AT MEGATEK SA IN ORDER TO REDUCE QUANTITIES OF DAMAGED INVENTORY- Master thesis completed.
- Marku, E. & Falter, J. DIFFICULTIES OF FACTORING IMPLEMENTATION IN ALBANIA: A REGIONAL COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS- Master thesis completed.
- Marku, D. & Kakouris, A. TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN ALBANIAN COMPANIES- Master thesis completed.

Research team

Project 5, Track 5 MARKETING MANAGEMENT AND E-COMMERCE

5. Dr. Andreas Kakouris
6. Alma Bici, PhD Candidate
7. Irsi Kasapi, Phd Candidate
8. Other MBA students

Research Output

- Shehu, V. & Bici, A. MARKETING PRACTICES ON MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS- Master thesis completed.
- Barxhani, A. & Bici, A. ONLINE MARKETING - USE OF 'FACEBOOK' IN ALBANIAN BUSINESSES- Master thesis completed.
- Leka, R. & Kasapi, I. ISO STANDARDS, CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR TÜV AUSTRIA ALBANIA- Master thesis in process.
- Simacheva, A. & Pattison, W. ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS AFFECTING CONSUMER BEHAVIOR TOWARDS GIFTS AS A MEANS TO INCREASE SALES IN THE RETAIL ORGANISATION LEFUTURE ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Shala, K. & Lopari, M. BARRIERS TO E-COMMERCE ADOPTION IN ALBANIA- Master thesis in process.
- Vogli, E. & Biba, M. CRM IN E-COMMERCE- Master thesis completed.
- Licaj, E. & Narasimha, R. THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF AN E-BUSINESS IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Vlusha, E. & Bici, A. WHAT IS THE CONSUMER BEHAVIOR FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS IN ALBANIA. WHY IS SO DIFFICULTY FOR ALBANIAN MARKET TO INTEGRATE ON THIS KIND OF PAYMENTS- Master thesis completed.
- Cani, G. & Pattison, W. SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING- Master thesis completed.
- Isufi, A. & Ciko, I. MARKETING SERVICES IN INSIG ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Avllaj, I. & Kougionas, I. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IN GREEK BANKS IN THE ALBANIAN BANKING SECTOR- Master thesis completed.

Project 4.6: International Business and Trade: Determinants and Impacts of International Investments and International Commitments

AUSPICE: CENTER FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH
LEADER: DR. ARIANA CELA
DURATION: JULY 2017

Summary

While Foreign Direct Investments- FDIs have been widely discussed in terms of push and pull factors and their economic contribution to host countries, the analysis on the relationship of FDIs with government size, economic freedom index and doing business indicators of the host country has been limited. Particularly, a similar analysis for Albania and countries of the region is absent.

Therefore the purpose of this project is to identify the determinants of FDI inflows in our region and Albania. Secondary data will be retrieved for Albania and 39 European countries to compute regression equations aiming at assessing the impact of government size, economic freedom index, doing business indicators on the FDI inflows. As foreign investment decisions are subject of so many other factors, a number of control variables have also been introduced.

Some basic characteristics of the business climate in Albania and their attractiveness to foreign investors have also been analyzed and assessed through a primary data collection of one hundred CEO-s, and administrators of small and medium size foreign companies that operate in Albania.

From another perspective, one of the main decisions for international investors is to decide what type of entry mode it is going to use to enter and succeed in a specific country. The aim of the project is also to identify what types of entry modes have been selected by FDI-s in Albania and what are the underlining internal and external factors foreign companies have based their decision to enter in. The findings will provide valuable information for discussion among researchers as well as for consideration for policy makers regarding FDI promotion and attraction governmental policies.

CEFTA has improved business ability to trade among them and with the EU – as the major trading partner for the region. CEFTA is about creating an attractive market for investments vs many fragmented and unattractive markets existed before, has increased business opportunities in and outside the region as investors, sub-contractors and suppliers; it has assisted the privatizations process coming to an end. What is the measurable contribution of CEFTA in investment, market performance, economic growth, job creation and in reducing unemployment? These are questions to also be addressed in this project.

Research Team

Project 6, Track 1 DETERMINANTS AND IMPACTS OF FDI

1. Dr. Ariana Çela
2. Dr. Ines Nurja
3. Prof. Assoc. Agim Mamuti
4. Dr. Perparim Dervishi
5. Dr. Dritan Shoraj
6. Dardana Cami, Master Student
7. Kreshnik Xhabrahimi, Student Research Assistant
8. Other MBA students

Research Output

Shoraj, D. & Dervishi, P. (2015), *Business Climate and Attraction of Foreign Investments in Albania*, presented in International Conference “Transition in Retrospect- 25 Years after the Fall of Communism”, 27-28 November 2015, Tirana, Albania.

Dami, D., & Çela, A. (2015) *Foreign Direct Investments: Entry Modes of FDI in Albania*, presented in International Conference “Transition in Retrospect- 25 Years after the Fall of Communism”, 27-28 November 2015, Tirana, Albania.

Çela, A., & Nurja, I. 2016. *Size of the government and FDI inflows: A comparative analysis of Albania with South Eastern European Countries*, paper presented in 3rd Annual International Conference ‘Albanian Studies Days’ “ALBANIA AS A CASE STUDY:

- ECONOMY, POLITICS, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE”; European University of Tirana, 28th -30th April 2015, Tirana.
- Mamuti, A. & Ganiç, M. (2016, May 11-15). *The Effect of FDI on the GDP of Macedonia*. Paper presented in the 3rd International Congress on Accounting and Finance Research, Zonguldak, Turkey and to be published in Special issue of an International Journal
- Çela, A., & Nurja, (2016), *Economic Freedom and FDI Inflows: An empirical Analysis*. Abstract accepted to 7th International Conference on Information Systems and Technology Innovations: the New Paradigm for a Smarter Economy, organized by Department of Statistics and Applied Informatics, Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana, June 17-18, 2016, Tirana
- Çela, A. & Xhabrahimi, K. (2016) Ease of doing business and FDIs inflows: An empirical analysis for South Eastern European Countries, paper presented in 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development, 19-23 October 2016, Skopje, Macedonia.
- Shoraj, D., & Dervishi, P. (2017) *Business Climate and the Attraction of Foreign Direct Investment in Albania*, paper presented to ICSS XI-International Conference on Social Sciences, organized January 20-21, 2017 in Helsinki, Finland.
- Robo T. & Crawford, M. STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES- Master thesis completed.
- Dyrmishi, E. & Kakouris, A. FINANCING INSTRUMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THEIR USAGE IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Haxhia, Xh. & Neal H.B. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Gjimishka, G. & Kakouris, A. FDI STRATEGIES AND THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE INSURANCE MARKET- Master thesis completed.
- Likskendaj, J. & Xhepa, S. TOP REASONS TO INVEST IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Kuli, A. & Kougionas, I. THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS ON FDI- Master thesis completed.
- Mitre, E. & Mamuti, A. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS (FDI) IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Shehi, R. & Nurja, I. FDI IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES- Master thesis completed.
- Jace, D. & Xhepa, S. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN ALBANIA- Master thesis completed.
- Fullani, F. & Cela, A. FDI IN UNDERDEVELOPMENT COUNTRIES AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE MACROECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT ON THEM (ALBANIAN CASE)- Master thesis completed.

Research Team

Project 6, Track 2 CEFTA, A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MEMBER COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND E.U. INTEGRATION (CASE OF ALBANIA)

1. Prof.Dr. Suzana Guxholli

Research Output

Book in preparation to be published.

5. European Integration, Reform and Governance

This research area focuses on the current needs of Albania's ongoing transition, aiming to further explore possibilities for reforms towards integration and better policies for governance improvement. Theory-based and applied research about major socio-economic changes in the economic system, economic structure, and governance will focus on issues as such: local vs. central authority, leadership, rule of law, administrative/legal systems reforms, the role of different stakeholders, the integration of Albanian society and its institutions into the global system etc.

Project 5.1: European Integration, Democratic Consolidation and Democratic Regression in Central and Eastern Europe: An Institutional Assessment

AUSPICE: INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

LEADER: DR. ELTION MEKA

DURATION: MAY 2017

Summary

This project dissents directly from Dr. Meka's doctoral research. In other words, it is an attempt to separate the doctoral dissertation in separate journal articles for the purpose of publication. The research itself attempted to analyze the ways in which the pre-accession process of European integration in Central and Eastern Europe effected political competition in the candidate states. The research adopted a mixed methodological approach (qualitative and quantitative) in order to determine whether the pre-accession process had a differentiated effect under differently instituted democracies.

The findings were able to show that under majoritarian designed democracies (using Lijphart's institutional typology) European integration had a constraining effect on political competition, while under consensual democracies the constraining effect was mitigated through the rise of Eurosceptic parties.

Presently, the doctoral research has been divided into separate journal articles—some of which have already been published, while another set of articles is undergoing revisions prior to going under blind review.

Research Team

1. Dr. E. Meka, Lead Researcher, eltionmeka@unyt.edu.al

Research Output

Meka, E. (2016) European Integration, Democratic Consolidation, and Democratic Regression in CEE: An Institutional Assessment. *Journal of European Integration* 38.2 (2016): 179-194. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07036337.2015.1110149> (Completed: published)

- Meka, E. (2016) European Integration under Highly Fractionalized Party Systems: The cases of Poland and the Czech Republic. *Europe-Asia Studies*. (Forthcoming: approved for publication).
- Meka, E. The Failure of Europeanization in Hungary and Romania: Exploring and theorizing the mechanics of European integration. (Currently being revised for another review).
- Meka, E. Probing the Statistical Relationship Between EU Membership and Democratic Consolidation: The Eastern Enlargement.” (Currently being revised for another review).
- Meka, Eltion. (2016). EU Integration under Highly Fractionalised Party Systems: The Cases of Poland and the Czech Republic, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 68(9), 1467-1485. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2016.1246652>
- Meka, Eltion (2016). Minority Protection and Democratic Consolidation: The role of European Integration in the Republic of Macedonia, *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*, 10(2), 23-37. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5038/1911-9933.10.2.1350>
- Meka, Eltion. (2016). European Integration, Democratic Consolidation, and Democratic Regression in CEE: An Institutional Assessment, *Journal of European Integration*, 38(2), 177 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07036337.2015.1110149>

Project 5.2: Higher Education and Knowledge Economy

AUSPICE: CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH/ DOCTORAL SCHOOL
 LEADER: PROF. DR. FATOS TARIFA
 DURATION: DECEMBER 2018

Summary

The following years of this millennium will be characterized with challenges and uncertainties even bigger encouraging a tougher competition in the market. Under these circumstances it is essential for higher education institutions to adopt a more proactive approach addressing radical changes markets are and will be going through. Flexibility and creativity will be the critical skills that would be enabling the survival and success in competitive job markets.

The research in this area will be focusing on linkages between higher education institution and job market and knowledge-based economies.

Research Team

1. Prof. Dr. Fatos Tarifa
2. Dr. Enila Cenko
3. Dr. Ariana Çela
4. Dr. Eriona Shtembari

Research Output

Cenko, E., & Tarifa, F. (2016). Sfidat e universitetit në epokën digjitale”. Konferenca “Universiteti, Zhvillimi dhe Inovacioni”. Organizuar nga Forumi i Pavarur i Rektorëve dhe Universiteti Polis. Tirana, Albania.

- Shtembari, E. (2016) *The Role of Internships in Developing Personal and Professional Attributes in Students. Evidence from the University of New York Tirana*, paper presented in 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development, 19-23 October 2016, Skopje, Macedonia.
- Cenko, E., & Tarifa, F. (2017). *Universiteti, ekonomia e dijes dhe pergatitja e "punonjesve te dijes"*. Konferenca organizuar nga Forumi i Pavarur i Rektorëve dhe UET. Shkurt 2017, Tirana, Albania.
- Çela, A. (2017). *Roli i Universiteteve në Zhvillimin Ekonomik: Një Qasje Teorike rreth Edukimit mbi Sipërmarrjen*. Konferenca e organizuar nga Forumi i Pavarur i Rektorëve dhe UET. Shkurt 2017, Tirana, Albania.

Project 5.3: Trans-Atlantic relations after the Cold War, Past, Present, Future

AUSPICE: CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH/ DOCTORAL SCHOOL

LEADER: PROF. DR. FATOS TARIFA

DURATION: DECEMBER 2016

Summary

This doctoral research aims at bringing a new contribution to the field of European Studies and most generally to the field of International Relations. This goal will be achieved: (1) by focusing specifically on the current state and the future of the transatlantic relations, a topic that remains virtually unexplored by Albanian scholars; (2) by relying on official sources and a specialized literature that remains largely generally uncharted by other IR scholars in Albania; (3) by deepening the analysis of processes and phenomena which regulate (or impair) the transatlantic relations in certain areas, examining particularly US – EU in the past ten years.

Research Team

1. Prof. Dr. Fatos Tarifa
2. Alketa Dumani, Doctoral student

Research Output

- Dumani A., & Tomja A. (2014) *Unipolar International System – Peaceful and Sustainable*, Asian Academic Research Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities, Volume 1, Issue 24, pp. 372-383.
- Dumani A. (2014) *Partners or Rivals: NATO and European Security and Defense Policy in the Global Security Architecture*, Twelfth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, 11-13 June 2014, Madrid, Spain.
- Tomja, A., Dumani, A., & Begici, V. (2014) *Polariteti dhe Konsekuencat ne Sistemin Nderkombetar*, 3rd Scientific International Conference on "The State, Society and Law: Regional Cooperation". 23-24 May 2014, Durres, Albania.