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IN THE DANUBE REGION

 AUSTRIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION

  
Österreichischer  
Städtebund



# LIST OF SPEAKERS

Following the Order of the Agenda

## DANUBE GOVERNANCE FORUM – IMPROVING GOVERNANCE TOGETHER

4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017  
VIENNA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Network of Associations of  
Local Authorities of South-East Europe



**ReSPA**  
Regional School  
of Public Administration



# **Welcome Session**

09:00 – 10:30

Opening of the Forum

**Thomas Weninger**

*Secretary General of the Austrian Association of Cities and towns*

**Robert Zeiner**

*Director Programmes and Projects International at the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)*

BACID Programme – looking back and forward

**Thomas Prorok**

*Deputy Managing Direktor of KDZ*



## Welcome and Opening of the Conference

### **Thomas Weninger**

*Secretary General of the Austrian Association of Cities and towns, Austria*

Thomas Weninger manages the General Secretary of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns since 2006.

He studied political science at the University of Vienna and started his occupational career at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS). His further career steps included working as scientific officer at the Institute for Conflict Research (IKF) and the Centre for Public Administration Research (KDZ). Between 1993 and 1994, Thomas Weninger was General Secretary of the Austrian Society for Political Science (ÖGPW).

In 1994 he switched to the Bureau for Coordination at Chief Executive Office of the City of Vienna where he worked in the field of European Integration. Between 1997 and 2007 he worked as director of TINA Vienna Transport Strategies GmbH (Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment).

Between 2003 and 2004, Thomas Weninger was director of the unit "Knowledge management and Coordination" at the Chief Executive Office of the City of Vienna. At the end of 2004, he was director of the Magistrate Department 27, where his responsibilities encompassed EU-Strategy and Economic Development at the Business Group Finance, Economic Policy and Wiener Stadtwerke.

He received a Master's Degree in Legal Studies from the Danube University Krems.



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### **Rober Zeiner**

*Director Programmes and Projects International at the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)*

Robert Zeiner has more than 30 years of experience in diverse organisations of development co-operation and he is, since the beginning of 2004, the Director of international programmes and projects for the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

M. Zeiner started his professional career in the Austrian steel industry (feasibility studies) and worked from 1983 to 1985 as managing director of an SME in Austria. From 1986 to 1991 he was program-coordinator of the Austrian Service for Development Co-operation for Central America, where he was based in Managua, Nicaragua.

From 1991 to 2003, Robert Zeiner was director of the Austrian Service for Development Co-operation and HORIZONT3000. He was i.a. responsible for the successful planning, design and implementation of TRIALOG (EU-enlargement and development cooperation) and for the development and implementation of a quality management tool for development cooperation.





# **Open Government for Transparency**

11:00 – 13:00

Moderation:

**Bernhard Krabina**

*KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research, Austria*

**Nadija Josifovski**

*Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Macedonia*

**Dardan Abazi**

*Institute for Development Policy and the Municipality of Drenas, Kosovo*

**Gregor Eibl**

*Danube University Krems, Austria*





## **Bernhard Krabina**

*KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research, Austria*

Bernhard Krabina works as Team coordinator for European Governance and Urban Policy at the KDZ – Centre for Public Administration Research in Vienna, Austria. His main areas of work are Open Government, Public Governance, and Knowledge Management. He is co-founder of the Austrian chapter of the Open Knowledge Foundation and the School of Data Austria.

He has been involved in many Open Government Initiatives in Austria, Germany, Georgia and Macedonia and is author of the Open Government Implementation Model. He developed the award winning project Offenerhaushalt.at (Open Spending Austria) making spending data of more than 900 municipalities in Austria transparent.



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## **Nadija Josifovski**

*Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Macedonia*

Nadica Josifovski was born in 1972 in Kavadarci, Macedonia. In 1996 she graduated Computer Science on the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje. In 2017 she obtained Master's degree in the field of Regulation in energetics, electronic communications and traffic.

Nadica started her professional career in 1996, and worked mainly as programmer, quality assurance team member and trainer in several local and international companies. In the period from 2005 to 2013 Nadica gets her valuable experience as Project manager in one of Macedonia's leading IT companies - Seavus, working on projects in the country and abroad, in both business and public sector.



From 2013 she is working as information and communication technologies (ICT) advisor to the Director at the Agency for Electronic Communications. Currently, she is seconded to the Ministry for Information Society and Administration as a State Advisor for Information Technologies and Systems, working on projects in the field of the interoperability, open data, population registers and cyber security. Nadica is also a co-author of the Macedonian Interoperability Framework and of the Macedonian metadata standards for open data.

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**Dardan Abazi**

*Institute for Development Policy and the Municipality of Drenas, Kosovo*

Dardan Abazi – is a staff member of INDEP, since the organization's establishment, where he is currently engaged as a researcher.

In the past 6 years of his work contribution, he was the responsible person for coordinating the project that is undertaken by INDEP in collaboration with Kosovo National Assembly towards strengthening the assembly's role as a supervisor and also its role on policy and legislation drafting that are in full compliance with EU's standards and practices of sustainable development. Dardan attends in almost all of the sessions of Parliamentary Committee of Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade, and Industry, and just lately those of the Committee of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Urban Planning.



Dardan is responsible for drafting independent analysis for legal initiatives and monitored and drafted legislation from the aforementioned committees. Furthermore, he participated in about 20 working groups, organized workshops for increasing the capacities of civil staff, co-organized public hearings with the Committee on Economic Development, etc. Dardan has worked to promote transparency at the local level in the Republic of Kosovo with special consideration in promoting transparency and accountability regarding local capital investments.

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**Gregor Eibl**

*Danube University Krems, Austria*

for the last 14 years Gregor Eibl has been working in the Federal Chancellery of Austria. Since the beginning of the Open Government Data movement in Austria (2011) he was responsible for driving the Open Government Data agenda forward. He was responsible for the operation of the national open government portal data.gv.at, founding member of the cooperation open government data Austria, founding member of the DACHLI cooperation, member of the steering committee as well as the executive board for data.gv.at. Since November 2017 he is working for Danube University Krems investigating the open government activities from a scientific perspective.



# **Quality management as driver of public administration reform**

11.00 – 13:00

Moderation:

**Thomas Prorok**

*KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research, Austria*

**Lubomir Plai**

*Slovak Common Assessment Framework, Slovakia*

**Goran Pastrovic**

*Regional School of Public Administration for the Western Balkans (ReSPA)*

**Marija Nikoloska**

*Ministry of Information, Society and Administration, Macedonia*

**Samra Ljuca**

*Civil Service Agency, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*



## **Thomas Prorok**

*KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research, Austrian CAF Center*

Thomas Prorok is Deputy Managing Director of the Austrian based KDZ Centre for Public Administration Research. Since more than 15 years he is working in the field of Public Administration Reform, Decentralisation and Local Governments as well as EU-Integration. Thomas is Head of the "Austrian CAF-Center" which is the European system for quality management in the public sector. And he was programme-manager of LOGON – the Local Governments Network for EU-Integration.

He studied European Law and holds a master degree in political science from the University of Vienna and is editor of manifold publications on local governments, quality management and European Integration e.g. the "LOGON Report impact of European Union on Local Authorities".



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## **Lubomir Plai**

*Slovak Common Assessment Framework, Slovakia*

Lubomir Plai is the Head of the Implementation unit of the National Quality Strategy for 2017 - 2021, at the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing.

He was the Chairman of the Civil Service Office of the Slovak Republic (2002-2006). and is an expert in Civil Service Management on national and local level.

He was the Vice-Chairman of Public Governance Committee of the OECD (2005-2006) and is CAF national correspondent for the Slovak Republic in EUPAN.



## **Goran Pastrovic**

*Regional School of Public Administration for the Western Balkans (ReSPA)*

Mr. Goran Pastrovic is currently holding the position of Programme Manager at ReSPA (Regional School of Public Administration), an innovative centre of interregional cooperation among the Balkan States and a centre of excellence for training and capacity building within the Public Administration Reform.

Namely since 2011 he has been intensively involved in managing all the regional activities in the field of e-Government, Quality Management and Public Private Partnership in the Western Balkan countries.

He has more than 14 years of experience in project development, management, coordination and consulting through involvement in development and implementation of institutional, financial and strategic development working in the Western. Balkans, Europe, Central Asia and Gulf countries.



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## **Marija Nikoloska**

*Ministry of Information, Society and Administration, Macedonia*

Marija Nikoloska works in the Ministry of Information Society and Administration of the Republic of Macedonia. She is experienced in public service development and EU integration, working in intentional relations and implementation of projects in the fields of public administration reform and information society development. Marija is involved in the work of regional and international bodies and organizations.

She has significant experience and knowledge in the area of quality management. As a National coordinator for implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in the public institutions in Macedonia, she manages the process of implementation of the CAF model and other quality management tools and models in the institutions on central and on local level.

Marija holds a M.A in Project management and B.A. in Economy and E-Business from the university "St Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje.



**Samra Ljuca**

*Civil Service Agency, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Samra Ljuca works at Civil Service Agency of the Federation of BiH. She holds M.A in European studies from the University of Sarajevo and University of Bologna. She is experienced in different projects' design and implementation for different policies within the civil service. She has significant knowledge and competencies in managing training system in the Federation of BiH. Ms. Ljuca is involved in different areas related the EU integration process, especially those linked to the civil service reform. She possesses solid knowledge on Return on Investment methodology for training evaluation, PRINCE certification. She is responsible for the CAF implementation in the CSAFBIH, as well as for transfer of knowledge for local and cantonal authorities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ms Ljuca is actively involved within ReSPA activities, promoting ReSPA mission and principles at local level.







# **Improving Services for Citizens and Businesses**

11:00 – 13:00

Moderation:  
**Gennadiy Kosyak**  
*Council of Europe*

**Rahel Kahlert**  
*European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria*

**Aleksandar Arsovski**  
*Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of Republic of Macedonia (ZELS)*

**Irina Plis**  
*Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables, Moldova*



**Gennadiy Kosyak**

*Council of Europe*

Gennadiy Kosyak, international lawyer by background, was performing in different functions at the Council of Europe since 1998. He was primarily in charge of the technical assistance programmes in the area of the Rule of Law, Human Rights, legislative development and reform.

At different stages of his career, he was also acting as a Deputy Director for Legal Policy and Head of Co-operation Department at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, a Head of the Council of Europe Office in Montenegro and was also providing policy advice to the Ukrainian Government on the matters of legal approximation with the European Union.



Currently, he is a Deputy Head of Good Governance Division at the Directorate General of Democracy in the Council of Europe, providing legal and policy advice and also running a number high profile programmes in the area of good governance, decentralisation and strengthening local democracy in various countries including Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, etc. and the projects under the Eastern Partnership and South Mediterranean frameworks.

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**Rahel Kahlert**

*European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria*

Rahel Kahlert is a researcher at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (European Centre) with over 15 years of experience in leading, designing and implementing research and evaluation projects in several policy areas including public health, education, and social services. Rahel is currently managing and working on various EU-funded projects including the EuropeAid project "Support for Better Social Services in Kosovo for the Most Vulnerable Groups." Rahel is also serving as a social research and policy liaison fostering collaboration between governments and organisations from the EU and (potential) candidate countries, carrying out comparative research and policy analysis in areas such as social services, public health and elderly care.



Before joining the European Centre, Rahel was the Deputy Director and then Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute Health Promotion Research, leading evaluations in the areas of mental health, health literacy and health promotion. Prior to her tenure in Austria, Rahel was a Research Associate with the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin as well as an Ethics Fellow with the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Rahel Kahlert holds a Ph.D in Public Policy from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters Degree in Public Affairs from UT Austin. Rahel received the Emmette S. Redford Award for Outstanding Research for her evaluation research from UT Austin.

## **Aleksandar Arsovski**

*Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of Republic of Macedonia (ZELS)*

Aleksandar Arsovski was born in Skopje Republic of Macedonia in 1982. Currently he works in the Association of the municipalities in R.Macedonia as head of the unit for support of e-municipalities.

He is graduate information engineer and since 2017 holds Master at Information systems and technologies.

He is author of four publications regarding strategic planning in ICT development, role of ICT in local government, standardization and certification of information systems.

He has significant knowledge and experience in projects for planning, development and implementation of E-services. Highly experienced in the area of development of procedures for deployment and management of information's systems.

In his work experiences he was responsible for implementation of several large scale government-business information's systems like Information system for issuing building permits, Information system for management of state building land, Informational system for management of belongings of local authorities.



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## **Irina Plis**

*Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables, Moldova*

Irina Plis is the director of the Moldovan NGO "Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables". She has more than 15 years of experience working in municipal energy efficiency sector targeting local public authorities in regard to capacity building, sustainable energy action plans elaboration, budgeting and implementation of demonstration projects and public awareness campaigns. Since 2012 Irina Plis has been a key point for providing technical and financial guidance to municipalities under the Covenant of Mayors Program in Moldova.



# **Involving Citizens and Civil Society**

11:00 – 13:00

Moderation:

**Fatos Mustafa**

*Regional Youth Cooperation Office Western Balkans*

**Radu Cotici**

*Regional Cooperation Council, Western Balkans*

**Milos Djindjic**

*Europe Policy Centre (CEP), Serbia*

**Mirza Ajnadzic**

*Association for Cultural and Media Decontamination, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**Roland Krebs**

*SuperWien, Austria*



**Fatos Mustafa**

*Regional Youth Cooperation Office Western Balkans*

Mr. Fatos Mustafa is a Western Balkan public administration expert from Pristina. He was appointed as Deputy Secretary General in the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) in May 2017. Mr Mustafa has managed public administration reform and capacity buildings programs in Kosovo and actively engaged in the Western Balkan region for the past 14 years.



He was a Seconded National Expert serving in the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) placed in Montenegro, supporting human resources management and development and public administration reform, as well as administrative procedure. He worked in Kosovo Government for seven years in various positions including management of public administration reform in the period of 2013-2015. Most recently, Mr. Mustafa was Policy Planning Expert within the Kosovo Prime-minister Office through a SIDA funded project supporting improvement of policy planning in Kosovo Government and its institutions.

Mr. Mustafa also worked as a short-term expert for several international organizations and projects, such as UNDP, Swiss HELVETAS, CIJA US, OSCE, EC, etc. He is a lawyer.

Mr. Mustafa has organized (and participated) several national and international workshops, conferences and activities in various fields.

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**Radu Cotici**

*Regional Cooperation Council, Western Balkans*

Mr. Radu Cotici has an MA degree in Public Administration and PhD in Public Law at the Academy of Sciences in Moldova. He taught at the Moldova State University for ten years. At the same time, he worked for the National Anti-corruption Center of Moldova for more than ten years, holding various positions, including Investigator, Head of Unit for Corruption Analysis, Head of Directorate for Legislation, and Deputy Director of the Corruption Prevention Department.



He was member of national delegation to the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and Implementation Review Group of the UN Convention against Corruption. In 2012, Mr. Radu Cotici was elected as Head of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat, a regional inter-governmental organization dealing with anti-corruption in SEE. He joined the team of the Regional Cooperation Council as Expert on Governance for Growth in September 2016. He is 37 and a strong believer in regional cooperation.

## **Milos Djindjic**

*Europe Policy Centre (CEP), Serbia*

Milos holds the position of the Senior Researcher and Programme Manager in the Good Governance programme of the European Policy Centre – CEP, Belgrade based think tank.

Areas with policy research and analysis expertise include development and implementation of frameworks for PAR monitoring, public financial management in relation to implementation of public internal financial control (PIFC), government accountability as well as analysis of practices, experience (national and international) in designing and implementing public sector performance instruments (performance audit function, programme budgeting).



Miloš graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, where he also completed his Master studies in political institutions and institutionalist theory. He studied European Union institutions and procedures as participant in the Leadership Development Programme, organised by the College of Europe and the European Fund for the Balkans.

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## **Mirza Ajnadzic**

*Association for Cultural and Media Decontamination, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Mirza Ajnadžić is a researcher, journalist, educator and video documentarist from Sarajevo. Currently he works as correspondent for Deutsche Welle as a video journalist, and also is a part of the Centre for Cultural and Media Decontamination team as a researcher and media trainer. He started volunteering on the eFM Radio in 2010, and from 2011 was a full time employee.

Same year he was a co-founder of the eFM video production eTV. In 2012 alongside with Zoran Čatić created a non-formal education curriculum called AHA (Ad Hoc Activism) and since then he has been working with the Youth all across Balkans. In 2011 was a co-founder of Center for Cultural and Media Decontamination.

2011 - 2014 Mirza worked for Foundation for Creative Development as a video story author, producer and videographer for TV show Hayd u Park.

In 2012. he was trained by IWPR (Institute for War and Peace reporting) in web journalism and as their correspondent was awarded by the New York Ground Reporting Network for the world best online research and text about minorities. He worked as a journalist, researcher and documentary movie author for the SCCA/Pro.ba video production – In 2013 he was an investigative journalist for the award winning film „An episode in a life of an Ironpicker“ by Oscar winining director Danis Tanović. Co-authored documentary movies: „Vaši i Naši“ and „Yugonostalgia“ and author of the documentary „May 31st“. He works/worked as a freelance video prpducer for British Council BiH, British Council Turkey, Internews, UNICEF, Mozaik Foundation etc. In 2014 He was a part of the US State department educational program „New media and the social change“ as a part of the International Visitors Leadership Program that was held in the USA and since then he is an Alumni of the US State Department.





## **Roland Krebs**

*SuperWien, Austria*

Roland Krebs is an urban planner and urbanist from Vienna, Austria who develops strategic action plans for cities to tackle urban growth and challenges of urbanization. He has a vast, international experience in urban planning, design and urban development. Roland studied urban planning at the Vienna University of Technology and graduated with an MBA in strategic management (MBA) from the Universidad de Belgrano, Argentina. After developing international urban real estate projects CEE for Raiffeisen Property International (Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina) from 2003 to 2010, he was the project leader for Urban Design for the New Central Railway Station Vienna (Wiener Hauptbahnhof) until 2013. Since then he has been leading Urban Development Projects for the Inter-American Development Bank in Panama, Chile, Argentina, Colombia and Mexico, with a focus on establishing sustainable urban economies. He shares his international experience with researchers and students from the University of Technology in Vienna (TU Wien) at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space (SKuOR) and the Institute of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, where he holds an appointment as lecturer since 2011. His interdisciplinary work combining new urban planning strategies with developing urban economies (the 'Urban Design Lab'), which focuses particularly on the design of urban strategies and preparation of pre-feasibility studies, budgeting and reporting, was awarded special funds by the Austrian Ministry of Finance. Roland is a validated Lead Expert for Urban Planning in the URBACT III Program – the European exchange and learning program promoting sustainable urban development and in 2015 has won the City of Vienna 1st prize for the masterplan competition for urban design and development of Oberes Hausfeld (OHF), a 30 ha new development next to Seestadt Aspern with collaborative components with stakeholders in the planning process. Roland Krebs is co-founder and principal of superwien urbanism OG.





# **Better State Governance through Decentralisation**

14:00-16:00

Moderation:

**Elton Stafa**

*Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South East Europe (NALAS)*

**Boris Tonhauser**

*Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)*

**Alexandru Osadci**

*Association of Moldovan Municipalities (CALM), Moldova*

**Elisabeth Alber**

*Eurac Research, Italy*



## **Elton Stafa**

*Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South East Europe (NALAS)*

Elton STAFA is a senior expert in the field of public policy, public finance, decentralization, fiscal decentralization and local governance at the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe (NALAS). Mr. Stafa has an extensive experience in designing and implementing public finance and decentralization legislation, policies, and reforms. Over the past few years, working with the Government of Albania and USAID, he has managed or contributed to drafting and implementing: Albania's Public Finance Management Strategy (2013-2017 and 2015-2020); the Cross-Cutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance (2015-2017); the new Law on Local Self-Government; and the new formula for the allocation of unconditional grants to local governments. Recently he has lead the process of drafting and consultation of Albania's first-ever comprehensive law on local government finance. Mr. Stafa has previously worked at the Ministry of Finance in Albania where he held different positions, among them serving as an expert on European integration and coordination of the financial assistance, expert on macroeconomic analysis, senior expert on budget execution monitoring and director of the Budget Policy, Analysis and Programming Department. Besides his public finance and policy background, Mr. Stafa holds Master of Science in European Economy and Business Law from the University of Rome Tor Vergata, and is a PhD candidate in Statistics from the Catholic University "Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë", Tirana. He has been engaged in the academia as a lecturer in public finances and macroeconomics. He is author and co-author of a number of publications on public finance and decentralization policies, legislation and reforms, including the fifth and the sixth editions of NALAS's Report "Fiscal Decentralization Indicators for South-East Europe".



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## **Boris Tonhauser**

*Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)*

Boris Tonhauser, Executive Adviser at the *Council of European Municipalities and Regions*, is currently in charge of the PLATFORMA project supported by the European Commission, implemented in 2015-2018 under the Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission (2015–2020). He joined CEMR in 2008 as Policy Officer, later Policy Adviser in charge of regional policy, local democracy and governance, as well as Executive Officer in charge of institutional relations and statutory affairs.



His previous experience includes 8 years at the national association of local governments in Slovakia (ZMOS) as Director of international relations and European affairs, Secretary to the national delegation in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and as director of the Foundation for Training of Local Self-Government.

His academic background includes political science, international relations, law, European affairs and natural sciences studied in Bratislava, London and Strasbourg.

## **Alexandru Osadci**

*Association of Moldovan Municipalities (CALM), Moldova*

Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM), programme coordinator  
Working in coordination of international relations, programs and projects  
coordination, awareness raising, communication, lobbying and advocacy at  
the international level

Member of the Governing Board of the European Association for local  
democracy

Sectoral expertise:

Local public administration, decentralization, local autonomy, general  
governance and central public administration, awareness raising, advocacy  
and communication, democracy, elections, human rights, regional development, economic and fiscal  
policy, public finance management, European Union and European integration, aid management and  
coordination.

Professional experience

- Most part of the career was working in donors coordination (central government, EU, UN, etc.)
- Since 2010 with the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova



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## **Elisabeth Alber**

*Eurac Research, Italy*

Elisabeth Alber, PhD, is Senior Researcher and Project Leader (Federal  
Scholar in Residence Program) at the Institute for Comparative  
Federalism at Eurac Research, which is located in the Autonomous  
Province of Bolzano/Bozen (South Tyrol). Her research and publications  
focus on comparative federalism, participatory and deliberative  
democracy in compound States, autonomies, minority rights,  
decentralization and democratization processes, in Europe and beyond.  
Her background is in International Relations, Comparative Constitutional  
Law and Comparative Political Science. Elisabeth Alber has studied and  
worked at the Faculty for Political Science at the University of Torino (Italy), the University of  
Turku/Åbo (Finland), the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg (Germany), the  
Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship in the EU's Economic and Social Committee  
(Brussels, Belgium), at the Tufts University at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public  
Service (Boston, MA, USA), at the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law (Basque  
Country, Spain) and at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Innsbruck (Austria).  
Since 2005, year in which she joined Eurac Research, she primarily investigates legal and political  
tools for coping with the management of an ever more complex and plural decision-making, with a  
special focus on the subnational level of compound States. She co-created the role play Let's Go  
Federal, which the researchers of the Institute regularly carry out in schools, universities and tailor-  
made trainings. Elisabeth Alber can be reached at [ealber@eurac.edu](mailto:ealber@eurac.edu).



# **Activating Local Economy**

14:00 – 16:00

Moderation:

**Alexander G. Welzl**

*EUPro, Bureau for European Projects, Austria*

**Bojana Kostic**

*Municipality of Laktasi, Republic of Srpska*

**Kelmend Zajazi**

*Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)*

**Ljubica Kostic Bukarica**

*Business Woman Association of Montenegro, Montenegro*





## **Alexander G. Welzl**

*EUPRO, Bureau for European Projects, Austria*

Alexander G. Welzl is currently Senior Fellow with EUPRO – Bureau of European Projects. In his economic research he has a focus on global structural change, value creation in the 21st century, digital transformation, innovation ecosystems and Metropolitan Innovation Systems (MIS) as well as finance and financial industry.



Before joining EUPRO he was Senior Researcher with ECONOMICA – Institute of Economic Research, a Vienna based macroeconomic think-tank, from 2008 – 2016. In previous positions he served in the Directorate General I of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance as expert for human resources and performance management, he worked as executive consultant with the Munich-based international professional service firm ESPRIT from 2003 – 2007 and was responsible for corporate venturing as Head of Staff Unit 'Start-up and Venture Management' in the general management of the Austrian Research Centers Holding, Austria's largest applied research organisation until 2002 (today Austrian Institute of Technology/AIT).

Alexander G. Welzl is a frequently invited international speaker in expert workshops, conferences and seminars of amongst others the World Bank, OECD, Harvard University <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KDAOOX7jLk>, University of Oxford and WIFO in Austria.

## **Bojana Kontic Panic**

*Municipality of Laktaši, Republic of Srpska*

From March 2017 to today performs the duties of the Chief of Mayor's Cabinet in Municipality of Laktaši:

- Cooperates with scientific and professional institutions and coordinates work in the field of international cooperation;
- Responsible for Local economic development, Entrepreneurship support, Investment and EU Funds;
- Organizes and manages the work process in the Cabinet and responsible for executing the work within the Municipal Administration;
- Responsible for public relations of the Laktaši Municipality;
- Responsible for organization of big events (over 100 persons), - etc.



Since 2008 she has been employed in Municipality of Laktaši, on various affairs related to local economic development and strategic planning.

Besides master's degree, from the University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Economics, Study program: Business Economy, World Trade and the European Union; at various seminars and professional training, she is trained for preparation, implementation and evaluation of the EU founded projects; possess substantial experience in the development, monitoring and implementation of different development projects.

On the occasion of the French presidency of the European Union, she participated as a representative of BiH in program "Look at the European Union", organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, which enabled her to get acquainted with the functioning of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, to participate actively in debates and making proposals to the European Commission on some key issues related to the future of the European Union. She honorary worked as a lecturer and translator of the French language.

## **Kelmend Zajazi**

*Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)*

Kelmend Zajazi is the Executive Director of NALAS, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe since 2007.

Mr Zajazi is a member of the Council of Europe's Independent Expert Group on European Charter of Local Self Governments. Mr. Zajazi previously managed USAID Local Government Reforms and Democracy Network Programs, served as an Advisor and Chief of Staff of the Minister of Health and worked with the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office in Macedonia. Zajazi is a Medical Doctor and holds a Master degree in Public Policy and Management from the University of Pittsburgh.



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## **Ljubica Kostic Bukarica**

*Business Woman Association of Montenegro, Montenegro*

President and one of the founder of Business Women Association of Montenegro.

Owner of the marketing agency M.A.S. CODE.

Qualifications: Over twenty years of experience in Public Relations and Marketing. Development and implementation of awareness rising campaigns: Awareness raising expert, project „Cooperation between Employment Agency of Montenegro and Social Work Centres” (WYG International); Anticorruption campaign for the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption; Awareness rising campaign on the strengthening position of women in rural areas in Montenegro for UN Women and Ministry for Human and Minority Rights; PR Expert in the campaign “Be Responsible. It's up to you. Grey economy 0%” for the Ministry of Finance and UNDP; Development and implementation of awareness rising campaign of National SOS line for victims of domestic violence for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNDP; Antidiscrimination campaign for the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.



Guest Lecturer for Marketing Management and PR under Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprise, Employment Agency of Montenegro and Adizes Institute Montenegro initiative/project: “Chance for Young Managers” and “Entrepreneurs Encouragement in Business - Start up”, UNDP Gender Programme IPA 2010, Business Start Center (BSC) Bar, Project Start W “Supporting the development of women's potential in rural tourism” (Bed and breakfast training), Project Lake Routes (Marketing&Branding and Bed&Breakfast trainings), Project Harnessing Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Cross-Border Region of KS and MNE - Joint training on “Customer services”.

One of the founder of Business Counselling for women and young people in the municipality of Podgorica.

# **Financing Municipal Investments with Public-Private-Partnerships**

14:00 – 16:00

Moderation:

**Gerhard Sabathiel**

*SA Consulting GmbH, Austria*

**Andreas Kettenhuber**

*Kommunalkredit, Austrian Bank for Infrastructure*

**Nikola Aleksic**

*City of Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska*

**Gani Berisha**

*Association of Kosovo Municipalities, Kosovo*

## **Gerhard Sabathiel**

*SA Consulting GmbH, Austria*

Gerhard Sabathiel is General Manager of SA Group. He has business experience of more than 25 years in different roles and sectors with a strong focus on international financial markets.

After having started his career in the banking and trading sector he moved to Raiffeisen Banking Group in Austria, where he had the Position of Head of International Division focusing on Central- and Eastern Europe. Prior to joining SA Group he had responsibility for the Western Union International Risk Management covering more than 200 countries managing a global team on 5 continents. Last but not least he was CFO and Member of the Board of Western Union International Bank. Additionally Gerhard has experience from working for Worldbank/IFC on different projects and in various markets. Finally he is well recognized as a speaker at various events covering mainly financial and business topics.



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## **Andreas Kettenhuber**

*Kommunalkredit, Austrian Bank for Infrastructure*

Andreas Kettenhuber has more than 20 years of experience in origination, structuring, arranging and management of infrastructure and public financing; responsible for cooperation with IFIs (EIB, EBRD, KfW, IFC). He held various national and international management positions and several advisory mandates on international level (EU, EBRD, World Bank, UNOPS...).



**Nikola Aleksic**

*City of Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska*

Nikola Aleksic has been working in the City of Grad Banja Luka as Legal Advisor to the Mayor since November 2016. Before that, he was working at the Public Attorney's Office of the Republic of Srpska as of May 2010. After graduating from the Law School at the University of Banja Luka, and internship in the Public Attorney's Office of the Republic of Srpska, he passed Bar Exam in 2012.

He is the author of a number of legal papers, associate of the Fridrih Ebert Foundation and has participated in a number of working groups on drafting laws at the level of the Republic of Srpska.



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**Gani Berisha**

*Association of Kosovo Municipalities, Kosovo*

Gani Berisha works in the Association of Kosovo Municipalities for more than 2 years as Project Manager, being in service of municipalities to advance local democracy and quality of citizens' life. In this function, he participates in many activities of NALAS, contributing to the regional cooperation. Gani's previous working experience includes the engagement on the EU-funded project managed by the European Union office in Kosovo as support to the Ministry of Finance, where he had a role of the Decentralisation Policy Advisor.

He holds a master degree in Law from the University of Leicester, UK.



# **EU-Funding of Municipal Services**

14:00 – 16:00

Moderation:

**Marija Sosic**

KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research, Austria

**Aleksandra Vukmirovic**

*Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Serbia*

**Migena Kamberi**

*Municipality of Kamez, Albania*

**Ivana Lazic**

*Interact Programme, Interact Office Vienna, Austria*

**Susanne Böck**

*EuroVienna, Austria*

**Darko Mrvaljevic**

*Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)*

**Marija Sosic**

*KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research, Austria*

Marija Šošić provides expert support to public administrations and non-governmental organizations in the use of EU funds, with focus on EU external aid funding. She has 14 years of experience in planning and programming, development as well as implementation of EU and other donor-funded projects, including grant scheme management, procurement, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. While working for the associations of local governments in the South-East Europe as well as a key expert on EU-funded technical assistance to Montenegrin municipalities, she was dealing with various aspects of the European integration at local level. As of 2015, she has been cooperating with KDZ on capacity building of the countries of the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova as Local Government and Project Management Expert.



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**Aleksandra Vukmirovic**

*Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Serbia*

Aleksandra Vukmirovic is the Head of Unit for EU Integration and International Cooperation in the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities in Serbia (SCTM), the national association of local authorities existing since 1953.

Mrs. Vukmirovic graduated in Law at the University of Belgrade, being active for more than 12 years in EU integration, EU law and EU funds, public policy, local self-government system, international cooperation, city twinning, advocacy, project planning and management.



**Migena Kamberi**

*Municipality of Kamez, Albania*

Migena Kamberi has been working in the local government sector for the last 5 years. After the engagement in the Municipality of Tirana, she is now working as the projects expert at Kamza Municipality at Directory of Coordination and Development of the Projects.

Her main duties are to coordinate different projects between Kamza Municipality with other municipalities and institutions, including EU-funded projects. She is also responsible for partnerships with important representatives from national, international, central and local institutions, businesses, donators, civil society etc to develop Kamza city.

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**Ivana Lazic**

*Interact Programme, Interact Office Vienna, Austria*

Ivana Lazic joined Interact Programme in 2008 as a project manager in Interact Point Vienna. Previously she worked in the field of Spatial planning at University of Belgrade and in two Ministries in Republic of Serbia in Units for cross-border and transnational cooperation. In Interact programme she worked as a project manager in the field of programme management support to Interreg and IPA cross-border cooperation programmes, macro-regional strategies and Interreg communication. Since March 2017 she is a coordinator of Interact Office Vienna. She has a Masters degree in Spatial planning.





## **Susanne Böck**

*EuroVienna, Austria*

Susanne Böck is Head of EU-Project Management of the Austrian based EuroVienna EU-Consulting & -management GmbH which is part of the Vienna Holding. EuroVienna supports in the successful application and implementation of EU-funded projects, moreover EuroVienna manages EU-funding programmes in the Danube Region (START, DSPF) and offers trainings in EU-project management.

Among the customers of EuroVienna are the European Commission/DG Regio, City of Vienna, research institutions and cities and municipalities in Austria, the European Union and its neighboring countries.

Susanne studied Cultural Sciences and holds a master degree in Systemic Consulting and in European Studies.



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## **Darko Mrvaljevic**

*Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)*

Darko Mrvaljevic is Regional Expert on EU funding and EU integration issues at local level at the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South East Europe (NALAS). He chairs Committee on International Cooperation and EU Integrations within the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro and coordinate Network of Municipal Project Managers in Montenegro. His main responsibility is advocacy of municipalities vis-à-vis national and international entities in charge of EU integrations and EU funds as well as provision of technical support to Local Governments in EU funding related issues and fostering inter-municipal, regional and international cooperation.



In Municipality of Danilovgrad, as the Head of Project Management Department, he is coordinating preparation and implementation of EU funded projects. As Deputy Coordinator of Municipal Consultancy Group for elaboration, revision and implementation of Strategy development Plan of Danilovgrad Municipality, he is coordinating implementation and evaluation of Local Strategic Development Plan. He is certified trainer on Project Cycle Management, member of many bodies on national level (Working Groups of National Council for Sustainable Development, National Association of Utility Companies, etc.) and international level (NALAS Task Force on Sustainable Tourism, NALAS EU Officers Network, NALAS Advisory Consilium, ReSPA Working Group on Private Public Partnership, etc.). Through various programmes of Council of Europe, he successfully completed Leadership Academy, Good governance – Training of trainers and 1-year membership in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities as the young delegate.