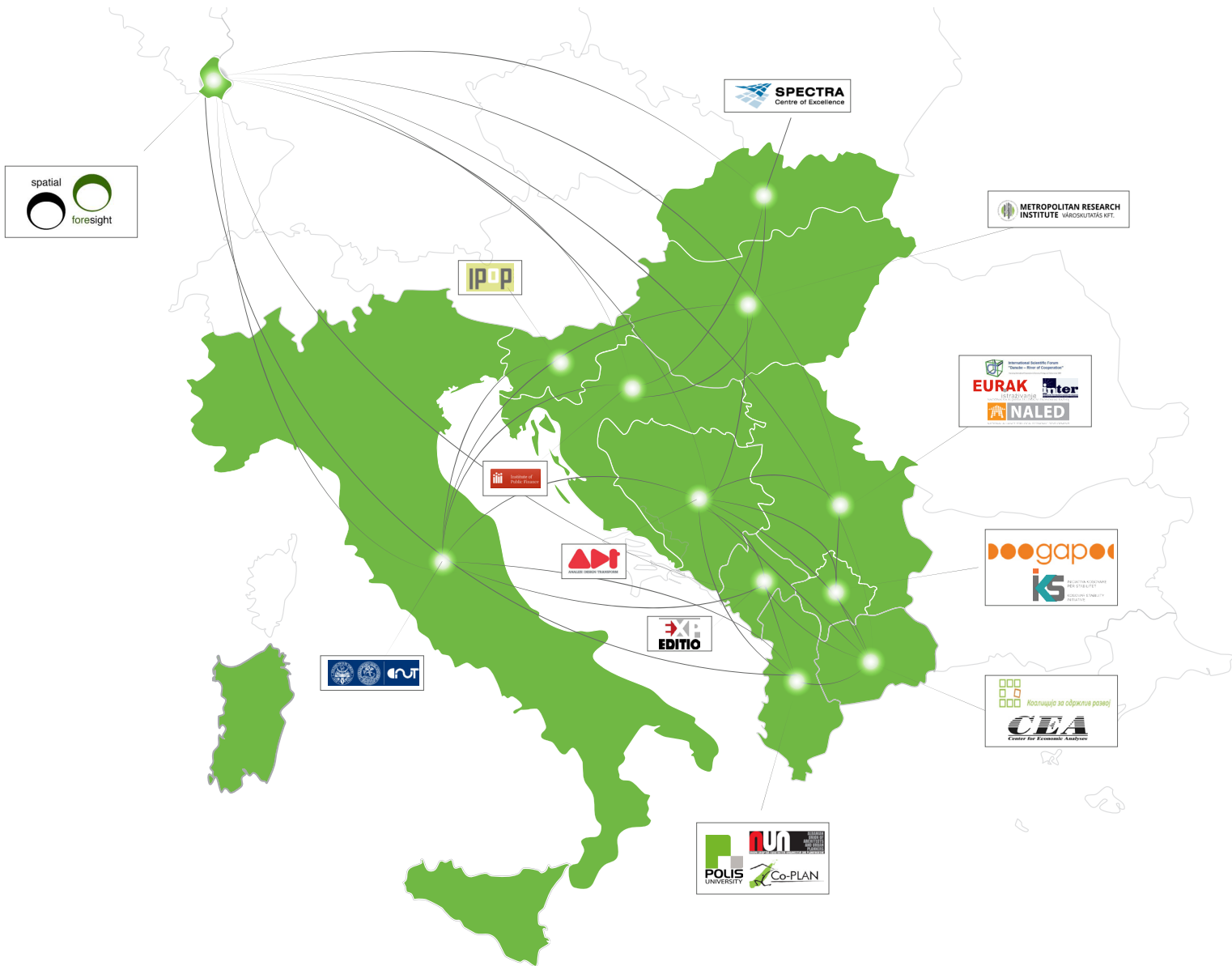


WESTERN BALKAN NETWORK ON TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE



*A Network Initiating Workshop
Tiranë, May 17 - 18, 2018*

I. INTRODUCTION

In view of current regional dynamics and socio-political ambitions in the Western Balkans, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development (Albania) is working on initiating a regional network comprising of civic actors mainly from civil society and academia, who are voluntarily willing to organise and provide bottom-up contribution to the EU integration of our respective countries and WB region as a whole.

What we propose as the Western Balkan Network on Territorial Governance would serve as a platform aimed at bringing forward the research on territorial governance in the Western Balkan (WB) countries bringing together research and policy-influencing forces from the region. In more specific terms, the network would work on undertaking pioneering research and policy advocacy across the region, to enhance the domestic territorial governance and impact in a 'unique voice' the EU integration of the WB countries from a TG perspective. In so doing, the network aims to strengthen the WB-EU partnerships at the level of academia, researchers' community, and civic society for dealing with territorial development in the WB in a combined EU-domestic bottom-up fashion.

Such an initiative, because of the exigency it represents and magnitude in terms of scope it serves, goes beyond the mandate of a particular project's mandate, or a specific organisation's mission and policy-influencing means.

Why this initiative?

We believe the establishment of a regional network on Territorial Governance comes at a timely moment: all countries of the Western Balkans region - Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, FYROM, and Kosovo— share, despite their diversity and idiosyncrasies, a common aspiration for a future within the EU. As a region, we share similarities with respect to our development and integration agendas, as we do face the imperfections of our planning systems and Territorial Governance (TG) practices. This has rendered the translation of EU policies to practice rather challenging.

Although the EU has dedicated significant funds to achieving better planning and territorial integration of policies, the effort so far has not included the WB countries. Therefore, when the WB eventually makes its way to the EU, both EU and WB will find themselves unprepared to deal with territorial development in a combined EU - domestic fashion. Under these circumstances, the challenge of the WB is twofold: lack of domestic TG and lack of the opportunity to actively contribute to the EU discourse and transfer insights from WB. Failure to meet both challenges is directly translated into the territory in the form of poor and unethical administration of resources, inadequate planning, non-inclusive policy-making, vast territorial disparities, and conflicting development priorities.

Given the importance of TG, we believe this platform can contribute to international research efforts in this domain, cutting across areas such as: multi-level [territorial] governance, regionalization policies and regional development, sustainable urban and/or territorial development, spatial planning, ecosystem-based governance of the natural resources, energy and climate change, place-based tourism development, and civic society. We also believe that the platform will be able to create tools and models for use in policy decision-making and implementation, both domestically and at EU level for purposes of EU integration. Ultimately, we see the network recognized as an important player in EU debates in the region, on planning and territorial governance related topics; recognized for its role in bridging WB issues to European agendas, and as collaborator in European networks; author to outputs (publications), events and advocacy actions are appreciated and influence Europeanization processes. The final objective and role for the network will be elaborated and defined on the basis of the discussion and input generated from participants.

II. NETWORK BOOK OF PARTICIPANTS



Elma Demir

Association for Research and Social Innovation ADT

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Bio: Demir has 15 years of professional experience in good governance projects and policy analysis and worked as researcher for the NATO BH HQ, the Prime Minister, Parliamentary Assembly of BiH among many other institutions. Elma Demir has been part of the Goldsmiths University of London as researcher in the Western Balkans conducting mixed-method political economy and socio-legal research since 2010. Demir combines her academic research with public policy work on social accountability, open governance and the rule of law. Demir has been appointed as National Researcher at the IRM of the Open Government Partnership and has been following the open government processes since 2014.

Association for Research and Social Innovation ADT is a non-governmental organization established in 2014 with the purpose to advocate for affirmation of the values of an open and knowledge based society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It works on strengthening research and scientific capacities of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. One of its key objectives is to pursue the construction of local communities through modern and sustainable, technology based models of development and through cooperation between different sectors of society, especially between the scientific and the private sector, as well as public institutions and non-profit organizations in order to foster social accountability the use of new information and communication technologies and various innovations in order to efficiently solve social problems.



Ledian Bregasi

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Bio: An architect graduated from Sapienza University of Rome, currently Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design at POLIS University. He holds a PhD on Architecture, questioning the emergent properties of complex systems and their possible applications in architectural and urban guided by Prof. Arch. Antonino Saggio. Ledian is with POLIS University, Tiranë, Albania since 2010, where he teaches and is engaged with applied research in architecture, city making and urban planning. In 2013 he was co-curator to the first edition of the Tirana Design Week, a biennial event organized by POLIS University. Since 2012 he is president of the Albanian Union of Architects and Urban Planners, an association of professionals that has among its objectives the advancement of the architectural debate and the promotion of professional excellence.

Albanian Union of Architects and Urban Planners- AUA aims at providing an open platform for professionals to further discussion, debate and develop synergies. They focus their activity on supporting excellence in architecture and planning as prevailing tools for future development and growth by encouraging the creation of a serious and efficient network of architects, planners and relevant institutions in Albania. It is only through these simulative approach adopted by AUA, that concrete opportunities can be created and a better dissemination of knowledge and practices can be achieved.



Marjan Nikolov

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Bio: Marjan Nikolov is founder and a President of the Macedonian think tank Center for economic analyses (CEA) and a Docent at the International Slavic University in Macedonia. He used to teach public finance at local level and financing regional development at the Integrated Business Faculty in Skopje. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Ljubljana, MSc in economics from the University of Reykjavik. Dr Nikolov has worked as a consultant on various USAID, UNDP, DFID, World Bank, IMF on PFM, decentralization and balanced regional development agenda in Macedonia and Western Balkan and MENA countries. Dr. Nikolov is an Ambassador of Macedonia to the Regional Studies Association global forum for city and regional research, development, and policy: <http://www.regionalstudies.org/networks/ambassador/marjan-nikolov>

The Center for Economic Analyses (CEA) has been established in 2003 as an independent economic think tank. The Mission of CEA is to continuously research economic development and public policy in the Republic of Macedonia and to offer recommendations, suggestions and measures to the government and non-governmental institutions. CEA members share a common vision of the Republic of Macedonia as a new emerging economy integrated with regional and world markets. They devote their time, efforts and knowledge to help make this vision become a reality.



Sonja Damchevska

Coalition for Sustainable Development

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Bio: Sonja Damchevska is a President and co-founder of the Coalition for Sustainable Development. Active in the Macedonian civil society for over 15 years, she has designed and managed numerous projects funded by international donors including EACEA, GTZ, World Bank, USAID, and SCP. She was part of a number of regional projects including Unfinished Modernisations: Between Utopia and Pragmatism, Social Sustainability and Citizen Engagement, and a co-author of many publications and papers, including "Citizens self-organisation and the new realities in local urban governance", "Study on sustainable urban development of substandard settlements", "Decentralisation and local democracy through the prism of neighbourhood self-government".

Coalition for Sustainable Development - CSD, founded in 2007, is a Macedonian, cross-sector, multi-ethnic NGO, with a mission to promote sustainable development at local, national and regional levels. As defined, sustainability provides for current needs without sacrificing the needs of future generations. Our economy, society, and ecology are interdependent. Optimising all three is often described as the "triple bottom line". Yet, for better stability of this "triangle", a fourth pillar is needed. That fourth pillar is culture. "Squaring the triangle", so to speak. CSD strategic approach is based on combining creative with professional potentials in order to uphold meaningful improvement.



Rudina Toto

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Bio: Rudina Toto (PhD) is a senior expert in territorial and environmental planning and governance, head of planning unit and of the workshop on territorial governance at Co-PLAN. She serves academia since 15 years, initially at the Polytechnic University of Tirana and currently at POLIS University. She is co-editor of the Habitat Magazine – POLIS University imprint, holds the Albanian Architecture Award 2018; has management, technical and research experience in urban and spatial planning, city development strategies, territorial information systems, regionalization and regional development, strategic environmental assessments; is co-author in the planning legislation reform during 2010-2016 and was external advisor to the process of drafting the National Territory Plan of Albania. She conducted her studies in Albania, the Netherlands and Italy. She holds an MSc in Architecture and Urban Planning, MSc in Urban Environmental Management and conducted postgraduate studies in housing and land management.

Dritan Shutina

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Bio: Dritan Shutina is the Executive Director of Co-PLAN, the Institute for Habitat Development, since 2005, which he co-funded back in 1995. He is also one of the founders of POLIS University, where he teaches strategic planning and project cycle management. He graduated in Civil Engineering and furthered his postgraduate studies in Public Policy, Land and Building Valuation, Urban and City Development, both in European and American institutions; currently in process of completing his doctoral studies in the field of architecture and urban planning. He is institutional development and governance Expert, with over 20 years of experience in matters of governance, strategic planning, participatory processes, and regional development. He has collaborated with numerous donors (both in Albania and the wider region) including with the EU, the World Bank, Austrian Development Agency, Swiss Development Cooperation, USAID, the Dutch Government, etc.

Anila Bejko

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Bio: Anila Bejko is an Expert in Public Finances and Urban Management, PhD candidate on Urban Development Policies. She has strong Urban Management, Governance and Public Finance background, all by education and experience. Contribution in policymaking and policy dialogue for Territorial Administrative Reform, Decentralization and Fiscal Decentralization issues, Municipal Finance Management practices, etc. Management and expertise in projects for preparing strategic and urban development plans, mid-term budgeting programs, capital investment plans, land management instruments and feasibility studies. Vast experience with Public Private Partnerships, Land Management, Infrastructure Development & Rehabilitation and Cost Controlling of projects. Academic qualifications include MSc in Architecture and Urban Planning, Master in Business Administration and postgraduate studies in Public Finance, Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations & Local Financial Management, and Informal Settlement Regularization & Land Management. She is Head of Local and Regional Governance Unit in Co-PLAN and Lecturer at POLIS University.

Aida Ciro**Co-PLAN**

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Bio: Aida CIRO is a professional in the field of strategic communication with a focus on urban development processes and is engaged in numerous projects targeting city-making or the improvement of certain city related issues, such as: participatory planning, urban activism, and networking, facilitation/moderation of trainings and workshops, and facilitation of knowledge building and sharing using online and offline tools. She has an extensive experience working with various target groups, crucial to the process of change in a city, such as vulnerable communities, local government authorities, media, and the private sector.

Ledio Allkja**Co-PLAN**

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Bio: Ledio Allkja has conducted his bachelor studies on Property Development and Planning at the University of the West of England, Bristol in 2011 and holds a Master from Radbound University on European Spatial and Environmental Planning. Currently he is following his doctoral studies at the Vienna University of Technology on the issues of Europeanization of Planning systems with a special focus on candidate countries like Albania. Ledio is a lecturer at POLIS University and a Spatial Planning Expert at Co-PLAN. He has good experience also on planning practice in drafting General Local Plans for various municipalities. During 2014-2016 he was the Head of the Sector of Regional and Local Planning at the Ministry of Urban Development. During this period, he contributed to the drafting of spatial planning legislation, the General National Spatial Plan of Albania and the Integrated Cross Sectorial Plan for the economic Zonë Tiranë-Durrës.

Lorena Gjana**Co-PLAN**

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Bio: Lorena Gjana holds a BSc in International Relations from Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus and a MSc in International Development and Governance from Tsinghua University, Beijing. From 2008-2015 she was working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania. Her experience was enhanced also by a 5 year posting at the Albanian Embassy in Pristine, Kosovo where she held the position of First Secretary/Consul. The responsibilities varied from the administrative and technical supervisions to political, economic and cultural bilateral affairs. On October 2017 Lorena joined Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development where she holds the position of Communications and Advocacy Expert.

Co-PLAN: Co-PLAN is a non-profit organization that has contributed to sustainable development by enabling good urban and regional governance, tackling key environmental issues, developing civil society, impacting policies, and promoting community participation knowledge-making since 1995. At the core of Co-PLAN's activity is the work with people and institutions, to foster tangible social transformation and positive change on the ground by inducing change-driving knowledge in our society for smart management of our habitat. Co-PLAN fulfills this mission through means of pilot activities and advisory services financed by national and international institutions and direct involvement with communities, local government units and other non-governmental organizations in the field of urban and regional management, environmental management, and municipal finance. We are based in Tirana, Albania, and have developed a solid-project-outreach-network at a national, regional, and international level, including many of the Local Government Units in Albania, numerous organizations in the Western Balkans region, Europe, and beyond.



Giancarlo Cotella

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Spatial strategies and visions for an ever-enlarging European Union

Synopsis: The EU spatial agenda had progressively gained momentum since the end of the 1980s. A growing number of spatial strategies and visions were produced, aiming to reflect upon ongoing development trajectories and, more pragmatically, to provide solid ground upon which to found resources distribution choices. The contribution provides an overview of such documents, and reflect upon their implication in the context of European Integration.

Bio: Giancarlo Cotella is Associate Professor at Polytechnic of Turin. His research focuses on EU territorial governance and the Europeanization of spatial planning in Central and Eastern Europe. He participated to several international research project (among which: MILESECURE-2050, ESPON TANGO, ESPON Smart-Ist, ESPON 2.3.2 Governance, ESPON 2.3.1 ESDP, ESPON ReSSI and ESPON COMPASS) and published widely in the international literature. He has been visiting professor at various International universities and institutions, and actively participates to the activities of the Association of European Schools of Planning.

Erblin Berisha

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Bio: Erblin is Ph.D. Student in Urban and Regional Development at Politecnico di Torino. His interests and research activities focus on Evolution of Spatial planning and Territorial Governance in the Western Balkans Region. Previously worked in several private companies as expert in urban design, strategic environmental planning and environmental impact assessment. As a private consultant worked for the Ministry of Urban Development in Albania and the Ministry of Environment. Currently, he is part of the Politecnico research team participating at the international research project named ESPON COMPASS.

DIST: The Interuniversity Department of REGIONAL AND URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING (DIST) is the point of reference in Politecnico and Università di Torino for the areas of knowledge that study the processes of territorial transformation and government, both on a local and on a global scale. These processes are analysed from a sustainability perspective in their physical, economic, social, political and cultural aspects, as well as in their interrelationships. DIST promotes, coordinates and manages basic and applied research, training, technology transfer and services for the local community with regard to urban and regional sciences and policies, as well as to spatial, urban and environmental-landscape planning.



Sanja Kmezić

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Bio: Sanja Kmezić is a lecturer at the University of Graz and co-founder of EURAK. She holds a doctorate from the University of Graz, a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the University of Pittsburgh and an LL.B. from the University of Belgrade. Dr Kmezić is also a coordinator of the Research Network on Decentralisation and Subnational Governance in South-eastern Europe, and a coordinator of the Decentralisation Working Group of the LSE Research Network on Social Cohesion in South-eastern Europe. Dr Kmezić has worked as an advisor and/or researcher on various international development and research projects in the field of local and subnational governance, public administration and economic development. Her expertise and research interests include decentralisation, governance, asset management, urban development socio-economic development

and public policy analysis, and she is an author of a number of publications in these respective fields.

European Research Academy Belgrade (EURAK Belgrade) is an independent research center founded by a group of young, highly profiled experts with the aim of conducting cross-cutting academic research of importance for the future development of Serbia and the Western Balkans. It was founded in response to an identified need for rigorous multidisciplinary research to inform policy and programming in Serbia. EURAK utilizes gold standard research methodology and evidence-based principles. We pride ourselves on the multidisciplinary backgrounds of our members, with expertise ranging across law, political science, public policy, economics and research methods.



Sonja Dragović

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Bio: Sonja Dragović obtained a joint master's degree in urban studies in 2015 through interdisciplinary program "4Cities", comprised of four semesters of study and practice in Brussels, Vienna, Copenhagen and Madrid. Prior to this she earned a bachelor's degree in economics. Her main interests include analysing practices of urban activism and working with local communities towards improving participatory methods, public policies, and shared spaces.

EXPEDITIO Center for Sustainable Spatial Development is a non-governmental organization based in Kotor (Montenegro) whose mission is to encourage sustainable spatial development in Montenegro and SEE region through activity in the fields of sustainable architecture, cultural heritage, urban planning and through projects that encourage overall development of the civil society. Expeditio was established in 1997. EXPEDITIO has implemented more than 100 projects and activities, through cross-disciplinary engagement and participative practices, addressing various issues of sustainable spatial development, such as: urban and rural planning and management, cultural heritage and landscape, sustainable cities, public spaces, green architecture etc.



Bekim Salihu

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Bio: Bekim Salihu is a senior researcher at GAP Institute and manages the project on local governance. He joined GAP in May 2012. Bekim has graduated in Political Science at the University of Prishtina (2001–2004). Before joining GAP, he worked for Balkan Investigative Research Network (BIRN) and in the daily newspaper Koha Ditore. Bekim has also been a regular collaborator for two years of the Albanian-American newspaper "Illyria" with office in New York. During this period Bekim has served as a regular columnist of this newspaper.

GAP Institute for Advanced Studies is a Think Tank established in October 2007 in Kosovo. During these years GAP has been directly involved in many governmental working groups for drafting public policies. A large number of public documents that are implemented today recognize GAP's contribution and research inputs. During this period GAP has managed to publish more than one hundred different publications; GAP has provided space for research to a large number of professionals coming from different fields; GAP's publications are among the most cited documents from local media; GAP findings have been cited by international media as well as from scholars whose work focuses on public policies. GAP Institute aims to bridge the gap between the governance and citizens and between problems and solutions for the advancement of Kosovo society.



Katarina Ott
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Bio: Katarina Ott is the Director of the Zagreb based Institute of Public Finance, and Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Faculty of Political Sciences at the Zagreb University. Her main areas of interest include public sector economics (the relationship between government and the economy, the underground/unofficial/unrecorded economy, the budget, public sector reform, local finances and in particular public sector transparency, government accountability and citizens' participation both at national and sub-national levels). Katarina Ott is an active participant in Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation; Open Government Partnership, and Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency.

The Institute of Public Finance is a public research institute, which performs applied and theoretical research in the field of public sector economics. The Institute researches public sector and its components – tax, pension, health and educational systems, social security system, public administration and state owned enterprises. The research in this field has been carried out ever since the Institute was founded in 1970 by the University of Zagreb. The Institute's primary goal is to research efficiency, sustainability and accountability of public sector. This includes the analysis of economic trends and the effects of economic policy in public sector. Among the most important topics researched by the Institute are for example open state budgets, participation of citizens in the budget process, unofficial economy, effects of institutions on economic growth, foreign direct investments, redistributive effects of taxes and social benefits.



Jasna Žarković
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Bio: Jasna Žarković is researcher at the Institute for Territorial Economic Development (InTER), working on SMEs and entrepreneurship, cluster development, local and regional development and policy evaluations. Ms. Žarković is an economist, holding a joint Master's degree in Comparative Local Development (CoDe) from the Corvinus University of Budapest, University of Ljubljana, University of Regensburg and University of Trento, an MSc in Economics from the University of Donja Gorica, and a BSc in Economics from the University of Montenegro. Ms. Žarković has over eight years of experience in conducting numerous research and project assignments funded by the European Union, international agencies and national authorities. Ms. Žarković has become fluent in English.

InTER - Institute for Territorial Economic Development: was established in 2006 as an independent non-governmental think tank, with the mission of promoting and advancing sustainable socio-economic territorial development in the Western Balkans. InTER has a two-fold registration, one in Serbia and one in Kosovo. The main areas of InTER's focus are: regional and local socio-economic development; territorial competitiveness through business infrastructure development; decentralisation and good governance; cross-border and transnational cooperation; rural development; tourism and aid-effectiveness, including evaluations and impact analysis of donor-funded programs. InTER has carried out more than 60 projects, mainly policy and sector studies, analysis and assessments on different issues across the Western Balkans.



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Bio: Stojić Karanović (Stojić-Imamović) Edit (Edita), PhD, research professor, worked (1968-2008) at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, director 2007-2008, founder and director of the Center for Neighboring Countries and Regional Cooperation within the Institute for International Politics and Economy (1985-1992). Founder-President of the International Scientific Forum “Danube – River of Cooperation” (1989 – present); Member of the Social Sciences Committee of The Hungarian Academic Council of Vojvodina; Assembly-Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Author, co-author or editor of more than twenty books and a large number of scientific articles. Languages: Hungarian and Serbian (as mother tongues), English and German (fluently).

International Scientific Forum “Danube – River of Cooperation”: is an interdisciplinary association of experts and researchers devoted to international cooperation carried out through project cooperation with partners from neighboring and other European countries in the field of sustainable development and environmental friendly use of natural and cultural-historical resources. The members are professionally engaged in the disciplines, which are also important for the projects initiated by our partners. It is internationally recognized that the three decades of long work directed towards the improvement of all forms of regional cooperation was reasonable and successful, despite of unfavorable conditions for international cooperation during the 1990s.



Marko Peterlin

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What to do with small and medium sized towns in Europe?

Synopsis: More than a quarter of European population lives in small and medium sized towns and they have a key role in providing public services across territories. Their challenges and also potentials are distinctly different from larger cities and yet there are no specific policies dedicated to small and medium sized towns in the EU. There are lessons to learn from this in relation to territorial governance in Western Balkan countries.

Bio: Marko Peterlin is the director of IPoP. By background, Marko is an architect and urban planner. Marko has been initially trained at the University of Ljubljana, later he obtained a Master’s degree from Polytechnic University of Catalonia in Barcelona. His previous work experiences include free-lance practice, work in the public administration, and academia. His work focuses on urban development policies. He also takes care of extensive collaboration with NGOs, public, and private institutions within a number of cooperation and applied research projects. He is the coordinator of a network of NGOs on urban and spatial development in Slovenia. In 2008 he led the drafting of documents for the Slovenian EU Presidency in the fields of territorial cohesion and urban development policies as an external expert. In the years 2009-2015 he was responsible for National Dissemination Point of the URBACT programme in Slovenia. He contributed to a number of studies for the European Commission.

IPoP: Institute for Spatial Policies – IPoP is a non-governmental, consulting and research organisation in the field of sustainable spatial and urban development. IPoP is registered as NGO acting in the public interest in the field of environment. The Institute was founded on 1 March 2006. Since 15 February 2008 the Institute is registered also as a research organization by the Slovenian Research Agency. IPoP focuses on participatory processes, urban regeneration, sustainable mobility, and new spatial practices:

- connects NGOs and local initiatives and offer them professional support and information,
- conducts research, carry out studies, advise on project development, and help form partnerships,
- leads participatory processes,
- trains for participation in spatial planning,
- engages in policy making and strive for better legislation with an impact on spatial development,
- disseminates information about sustainable spatial and urban development and react to topical issues.



Florina Jerliu
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Bio: Ms. Florina Jerliu, is an architect, an academic and a researcher. She is the founder and program manager of Archis Intervention Prishtina as well as co-owner of proARCH, a company dealing mostly with urban planning and consulting. Ms Jerliu has developed a strong background in civil society work through her consultancy projects with local institutions and international actors. . She has focused on post-war development and socio-economic strategies of Prishtina, and served on an international advisory team for Prishtina Vision 2020. Her publications portfolio includes a wide range of topics and fields of study related to urban planning but also cultural heritage, energy efficiency, sustainability etc.

Florina Duli Sefaj
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Bio: Florina Duli Sefaj joined Iniciativa Kosovare per Stabilitet in April 2012, after managing Governance and Rule of Law portfolios with DfID for 9 years. She started her career teaching at Prishtina University and Stevan Mokranjac High-school in 1989. Before and during the conflict she worked for renown NGOs and INGOs such as KMLDNJ, Save UK and MSF. After the war she served as a Political Adviser to the UNMIK SRSG and the first Speaker of the Kosovo Parliament. For her engagement in 1998/1999 Refugee crisis she received a Gallantry Award from Anne, her Royal Princess UK.

Kosovar Stability Initiative: Established in 2004 the Kosovar Stability Initiative (IKS) is an independent, not-for-profit think (and do) tank that continually seeks to inform/influence public policies through provision of empirical evidence and research, through facilitating equal participation of men and women with the aim of achieving good governance, social justice & rights, human rights and EU integration. IKS is strategically involved in good governance, cultural heritage, anti-corruption, education and Kosovo's image issues.



Iván Tosics
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The urban dimension of EU Cohesion policy

Synopsis:

- The challenges of future development in Europe, the importance of sustainable integrated urban development
- The strengthening urban dimension of EU Cohesion Policy, achievements and limits
- Good examples on integrated urban development: national urban policies, innovative local approaches

- The metropolitan dimension: institutional and procedural approaches for better territorial cooperation in functional urban areas
- Recent debates about Cohesion policy and the future of the urban dimension

Bio: Iván Tosics (born in Budapest in 1952) is one of the principals of Metropolitan Research Institute. He is mathematician and sociologist (PhD) and research fellow with long experience in urban sociology, strategic development, housing policy and EU regional policy issues. Since late 2011 he was one of the three Thematic Pole Managers of the URBACT programme, which has changed since January 2016 into Programme Expert position. He teaches at the University of Pécs, Department of Political Studies, Doctoral School. He is Vice Chair of the European Network for Housing Research (ENHR), Board member of the European Urban Research Association (EURA). He was member until 2013 of the HS-NET Advisory Board to UN-HABITAT. He is the Policy Editor of the journal 'Urban Research and Practice', member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the 'Journal of Housing and the Built Environment' and for 'Housing Studies'.

MRI: Metropolitan Research Institute (MRI), established in 1989, is an internationally recognized independent research, planning and consultancy company based in Budapest, Hungary. We are a multidisciplinary team of experienced professionals (economists, sociologists, planners) working on different aspects of urban development. In the core of the interest of MRI research is the development and performance of European cities. The Institute participated for a long time in the planning of Budapest (concept for urban renewal and Strategic Development Concept of the city). Since the 1990s growing number of international projects followed through involvement in UN Habitat, UN ECE, Council of Europe, World Bank, USAID programmes addressing the problems of the transition process of the Central and Eastern European post-socialist countries towards democratic, market-based urban development systems. Since the 2000s MRI intensified its contacts to EU programmes (FP programmes, URBACT, ESPON, INTERREG) and European city networks (EUROCITIES). These activities covered the whole of Europe giving the opportunity to put the original east-central European knowledge and experiences into a whole-European perspective. The different divisions of MRI deal with core issues of sustainable and inclusive development of European cities, such as inner city regeneration, the problems of large housing estates, urban sprawl, rental sector deficiencies, municipal budgeting, urban mobility issues, the problems of ethnic minorities. The analysis of these problems is connected to the surveying of administrative and institutional structures, exploring the performance of different types of governance patterns.



Ana Ilić

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Bio: Ana Ilić holds Master Degree in Economy (Belgrade University) and general professional experience in EU and international funding instruments management. In 2010-2017 was appointed Government official responsible for coordination, planning/programming and monitoring of EU and development assistance to Serbia including introduction of sector approach. For past six months is consultant in NALED on coordination of donor funding and project preparation. Was Member of Negotiating Team for EU Accession and Head of Negotiating Group for Chapter 22- Regional Policy and Structural Instruments; National Coordinator for EU Strategy for Danube Region and Head of Operating Structures for EU-funded Cross- Border Cooperation programs.

NALED: Since its establishment in 2006, NALED grew to become an independent, non-profit and non-partisan association of almost 300 companies, local self-governments and civil society organizations that work together to improve living and working conditions in Serbia. Core activities include: improving regulatory framework and conditions for doing business through public-private dialogue (e.g. fighting shadow economy, introducing e-permitting); public sector capacity building in economic development area; introducing standards of efficient local administration in Serbia but also in South-East Europe region through Business Friendly Certification Network. NALED contributes to EU accession process and initiates, advocates for but also implements regulatory and policy reforms.



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Bio: Besnik Aliaj (Prof. PhD.) is one of the founders and the Rector of POLIS University, with a rich academic experience of more than 25 years; advisor to the Albanian Prime minister (2005-2007); member of the Tirana Municipality city council since 2012; active stakeholder of and policy contributor to the Albanian higher education (university studies) reform and co-founder of and former executive director of CO-PLAN; co-founder of the architecture studio "Metro-POLIS", and of the "Forum A+P" periodical. He completed his studies in architecture at Tirana Polytechnic University; postgraduate studies in planning and urban management at the Erasmus University and doctoral studies at the Polytechnic University of Tirana.

Sherif Lushaj
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Bio: Sherif Lushaj (Prof. PhD) is an experienced practicing professional and academic; significant experience in the preparation of strategic environmental assessments for a number of municipal general local territorial plans in Albania. A significant part of his professional experience is focused on scientific research and teaching. Since 2012 he is working as a professor at POLIS University, and is Dean of the Faculty of Planning, Environment and Urban Management. He has conducted over 200 studies and scientific projects in the field of soil and environmental science. He is author of 210 scientific publications and 190 presentations at conferences and workshops in country and abroad.

Sotir Dhamo
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Bio: A co-founding partner of Metro_POLIS studio and one of founders of POLIS University. An architect and urban planner with extensive local experience particularly in project design, urban planning and participatory processes. He is engaged in projects for the formulation of plans and designs for various Albanian cities and other cities in the region; conducts research activity in the framework of the Research Unit of POLIS University. As a member of the civil society he plays an important role in AUA, the Union of Albanian Architects. Sotir holds a PhD in Architecture and Urban Planning from Ferrara University, Italy and POLIS University, Albania.

Llazar Kumaraku
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Bio: Llazar Kumaraku is a theoretician of architecture and city, and practicing architect part time at Metropolis studio and previously in Rome Italy. Graduated and completed his PhD from the La Sapienza University of Rome. His research interests include theoretical issues of architecture and aims a deep understanding of the identity of this discipline as a science not dependent on other disciplines, by analysing criteria and instruments of architectonic/urban design.

Loris Rossi**POLIS University**

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Bio: Graduated in architecture in 2004 at “La Sapienza” University of Rome, Master degree in Architecture “Ludovico Quaroni”. Completed his PhD on Architectural Composition and Theory at “La Sapienza University of Rome”. He was an adjunct professor at the Five Year Master course in Architecture EU of “La Sapienza”. From 2005 – 2011 he was co-founder of the ungroup Architecture office based in Rome; during this period he took part in numerous national and international competitions some of which were awarded prizes and shown in international exhibitions. Since October 2011 he is a full-time Professor at the POLIS University in Tirana (AL).

Peter Nientied**IHS - Erasmus and POLIS University**

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Bio: Dr. Peter Nientied is part time staff of Co-PLAN and Polis University, Tirana, and in the Netherlands he is lector of Management & Innovation at NCOI University of Applied Arts and associate of Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam. In Albania, he contributes to projects of Co-Plan, teaches in Polis University’s MBA programme and he conducts research - currently on sustainable tourism in the Balkan and on innovation management. In the Netherlands, he teaches on innovation and organizations and works as management consultant.

POLIS University: POLIS University, The International School of Architecture and Urban Development Policies (hereinafter POLIS), is a young, yet ambitious and engaged higher education institution, quality research-led university, supporting a focused range of core disciplines in the fields of architecture, urban planning, design and environmental management. Established in 2006, POLIS offers a focused range of disciplines on a bachelor, master and PhD level, supported by a growing body of applied and scientific research. Through applied and scientific research POLIS develops and promotes scientific excellence and innovation, instrumental to the development processes in the country. Whilst through academic teaching it enhances creative and comprehensive competence.

POLIS offers a focused range of study programs including Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programs, such as: undergraduate studies in Environmental management, Urban Planning, Architecture and Art-Design, followed by the post-graduate scientific and professional masters in Environmental Management, Structural Engineering and Energy Efficiency, Urban Social Development and Human Resources, Public Administration, Real Estate Development and Heritage Restoration and Conservation; a joint Masters in Business Administration (MBA), and doctoral programs, in Architecture, and Urban Planning. About 50% of the study programs, especially on a Master and PhD level, are offered in cooperation with a foreign partner, such as: IHS - Institute for Housing and Urban Development Policies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Lawrence Tech Detroit, USA; University of Ferrara, Italy, etc., including the MBA program, which has been drafted and is currently being implemented as a joint degree between IPAG Business School, Paris, France and POLIS.

**Kai Böhme****Spatial Foresight**

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Does territory matter in tomorrow’s Europe?

Synopsis: Important European challenges ask for a stronger territorial dimension of EU policies, such as increasing fragmentation & disintegration, growing interdependencies & their externalities, and the mismatch of functionalities, etc. These can only be solved through territorial cooperation. However, budget cuts and major governance trends (e.g. ‘my country first’ and ‘diverging understanding of democracy’) make it increasingly unlikely.

Bio: Dr Kai Böhme is director of Spatial Foresight GmbH. He specialises in European regional and territorial research and policies, international comparative studies in the fields of regional development policies, spatial planning, and in the territorial impacts of sector policies. He has a truly European background and considerable experience in policy advice at the European and national level as well as in the management of international applied research and consultancy projects. In parallel to his consultancy and policy advice activities Kai Böhme has also links to various universities, incl. an associated assistant professorship at the University of Luxembourg and visiting research fellowships at the Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Sheffield (UK) and the Centre for Spatial Development and Planning at the Blekinge Institute of Technology (Sweden). He has work experience from SWECO in Stockholm, the European Spatial Planning Network (ESPON) Secretariat in Luxembourg, Nordregio in Stockholm and the Secretariat for Future Studies (SFZ) in Germany. His educational background includes a PhD in Management Science from the University of Nijmegen (Netherlands) and a Masters in Spatial Planning from the University of Dortmund (Germany). He is member of the German Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL).

Spatial Foresight: Spatial Foresight GmbH is a Luxembourg-based company, which provides territorial policy support and research. The fields of activity comprise:

- Analysis and evaluation
- Process facilitation
- Strategy development
- Training and dissemination
- Territorial foresight processes
- European and comparative studies

The principle idea is to bring together territorial development and policy processes with foresight oriented approaches. Foresight encompasses a range of approaches that combine strategic analysis, prospective forward thinking and process oriented dialogical work. Using these approaches for the processes shaping our territories will facilitate a better understanding of how to best capitalise on territorial development potentials.



Maroš Finka

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava | SPECTRA Center of Excellence EU at the STU

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Central Europe experience, challenges and networking for territory in the frame of EU integration

Synopsis: Understanding of cultural dynamics, the ability to develop a clear vision framed by historically developed planning culture today based on the democratic leadership and its active fostering, should be an essential competence jointly developed across Europe. Planning as an important tool of governance generating a typical set of principles, values and approaches, plays an important role in spatial development of any territory. Moreover, it significantly shapes not only territorial and spatial processes, but also the dynamics of the entire society. The global transformation processes of the society at the edge of 20th and 21st Century accelerated by the transition processes in majority of the countries in Central and South Eastern Europe represent huge challenge for spatial development. The European integration catalyzes the processes of the extension of the spatial range for activities of EU citizens across administrative borders, their home municipalities, regions and states, determined by globalization, growing mobility and ICT development. The specific situation of Western Balkan countries, similarly to Central European states, with small national states, an historically negative experience of centrally planned economy, skepticism on institutions, and general turn towards neo-liberal policies, combined with dynamics of social-economic transformation, creates a particular environment for development.

Bio: Maroš Finka is Professor in spatial planning (1996-), director of the Central European Research and Training Centre in Spatial Planning SPECTRA Centre of Excellence EU at the STU since 1999, head of the Institute of Spatial Planning and Urban Design (2003-7), Vice-Rector of the STU (2000-2011), authorized expert on EIA /SEA, member of Experts' Board of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Slovak Republic and Ministry of Inner Affairs of the Federal State Rheinland Pfalz; his expertise

includes sustainable spatial development and planning.

SPECTRA: The Centre with its activities contributes to economic, social and cultural integration in Europe. By permanent research and proposals of the solutions for optimization of spatial structures of settlements it helps to meet the objectives of sustainable spatial development, management and planning as well as to balancing regional disparities, improving quality of life and strengthening of social equity in Europe.

STU: Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (hereinafter referred to as "STU") is a modern educational and scientific institution. Since its foundation in the year 1937 more than 159.000 students have graduated. In average, 12.000 students study at the STU every year. STU is a public university and offers education mainly in technical, technological, technical-economical, technical-information and technical-artistic fields of study using the modern methods of education, laboratories and practical training. It is aimed at the study branches with stable opportunities of students' employment at the labour market.

Ivaylo Stamenkov

Sofia University

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Bio: Ivaylo Stamenkov was born in Kyustendil (Western Bulgaria), where he studied in a Language School with German and English. Then in Sofia University he graduated as Bachelor in Tourism, Master of Regional Development and Management and in 2014 successfully defended PhD thesis about the Spatial Planning in Austria and the present situation in Bulgaria. Since 2011 he is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Regional and Political Geography. His scientific interests and publications are in the fields of spatial planning, regional geography, regional development, tourism and sports.

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" is the biggest and oldest higher education institution in Bulgaria. It has been consistently ranked as the top university in Bulgaria according to national and international ratings. The university has 16 faculties and three departments, where over 21,000 students receive their education. The Faculty of Geology and Geography is the main place in the Bulgarian higher education system where spatial planning and regional development are studied from the geographic point of view. In this respect the department "Regional and Political Geography" has an important role.

Velislava Simeonova

The International University Center of Barcelona

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Bio: Dr. Velislava Simeonova (geographer), Ph.D. in Geography, Spatial Planning and Environmental Management (University of Barcelona); since 2016 she has worked as a university professor-collaborator at the UNIBA, Barcelona; a member of the Bulgarian Geographical Society; part of the Multi-Disciplinary Information Bank of experts, scientists and civic activists dealing with urban planning issues (Bulgaria). Her professional interests are related to: Spatial planning, Europeanization of spatial planning, Policy transfer process, the Balkan region.

The International University Center of Barcelona (UNIBA) is an institution affiliated to the University of Barcelona (UB), Spain. The University of Barcelona is the most formidable public institution of higher education in Catalonia, catering to the needs of a great number of students and delivering the broadest and most comprehensive higher educational courses.

Siniša Trkulja

Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure

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Bio: Siniša Trkulja is a Spatial Planner at the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Sector for Spatial and Urban Planning in Belgrade, Serbia. His fields of expertise include international cooperation in the field of spatial planning, national urban and territorial policies and their implementation and monitoring and use of geographic information systems for spatial planning. He completed his PhD on the topic of comparative planning.

III. INITIATING WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day 1 - May 17, 2018

- 9.00 – 9.15 Participants registration
- 9.15 – 9.45 Dritan Shutina, Co-PLAN, Welcome remarks and setting the scene.
- 9.45 – 10.15 **How territory matters in governance:** European Union perspectives and recommendations to Western Balkan countries:
 - Iván Tosics, Metropolitan Research Institute, MRI – Hungary, *The Urban Dimension of EU Cohesion Policy*.
 - Giancarlo Cotella, DIST, Politecnico di Torino – Italy, *Spatial strategies and visions for an ever-enlarging European Union*.
- 10.15 – 11.00 **Territorial Governance in the Western Balkans**
 - Rudina Toto, Co-PLAN and POLIS University, *Territorial Governance in Albania*.
 - Dragisa Mijacic, Institute for Territorial Economic Development, InTER and Ana Ilic, NALED, *Issues on territorial governance in Serbia*.
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break**
- 11.30 – 13.00
 - Sonja Damchevska, Coalition for Sustainable Development and Marjan Nikolov, Center for Economic Analysis, *Issues on territorial governance in FYR of Macedonia*.
 - Florina Duli Sefaj, Kosovar Stability Initiative and Bekim Salihu, Instituti GAP, *Issues on Territorial Governance in Kosovo*.
 - Sonja Dragovic, EXPEDITIO Center for Sustainable Spatial Development, *Issues on Territorial Governance in Montenegro*.
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch**
- 14.00 – 15.30 **How territory matters in governance:** European Union perspectives, and recommendations to Western Balkan countries (continued)
 - Marko Peterlin, IPOPOP – Slovenia, *What to do with small and medium sized towns in Europe?*
 - Maros Finka, SPECTRA Center of Excellence/Slovak University of Technology – Slovakia, *Central Europe experience, challenge and networking for territory in the frame of EU integration*
 - Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight – Luxembourg, *Does territory matter in tomorrow's Europe?*
- 16:00 - 17:30 Discussion on future cooperation opportunities
Conclusions
- 19.00 Joint dinner**

Day 2 - May 17, 2018

- 9.30 – 10.00 A recap from Day 1 Proceedings
- 10:00 - 11.30 Plenary discussion on the network's objectives and future actions
- 11:30 - 12:00 Coffee break**

12:00 - 13:30 Plenary discussion, Outputs and Closing Remarks

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

Participants' Departure

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