

ESEE FANEL NETWORK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Other Europe? Resilience and Assertiveness in Our Region

14-15 January 2022 [online]

Draft AGENDA (version 10 January 2022)

Main [Webex Link](#)¹:

Event number: 2730 699 2337

Event password: fanel

FRIDAY 14 January 2022

13.30 – 15.30 OPENING SESSION

Welcome Notes

- **Professor Remus PRICOPIE**, Rector the National University of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA)
- **Mrs. Alina INAYEH**, director of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund of the United States

Host and Project Manager: Professor Liliana POPESCU (Ph. D. University of Manchester), Vice-Rector for International Relations, the National University of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA)

Keynote Speakers:

- **Senator Anca DRAGU**, Romanian Senate, Former President of the Romanian Senate, Member of the European Affairs Committee;
- **H.E. Mrs. Luminița Teodora ODOBESCU**, Presidential Adviser for Foreign Policy and European Affairs;
- **H.E. Mme Laurence AUER**, Ambassador of the French Republic in Romania.

Moderator: Prof. Liliana POPESCU, President of the ESEE-Fanel Network Board.

16.00 – 18.00 ROUNDTABLE: How can women experts from Eastern, South-Eastern and Central Europe counter illiberal trends?

Keynote speakers – ESEE Fanel Network Members

- **Mrs. Alina INAYEH**, director of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund of the United States;
- **Senator Anca DRAGU**, Romanian Senate, Former President of the Romanian Senate Member in the European Affairs Committee;
- **Prof. Dr. Habil. Andrea PETŐ**, Department of Gender Studies at Central European University, Vienna, Austria, a Research Affiliate of the CEU Democracy Institute, Budapest, and a Doctor of Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences;
- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria BAKALOVA**, Dean of Faculty of International Economy and Politics, University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria.

Moderator: Prof. Liliana POPESCU, President of the ESEE-Fanel Network Board.

¹ This link is valid throughout the conference, with the exception of Parallel session 2 of Fanel 1, scheduled on Saturday morning.

SATURDAY 15 January 2022

10.30 – 12.30 FANEL 1: 'Rich and poor'. Regional inequalities and their socio-economic consequences

The growing inequalities at the global level have impacted Eastern and South-Eastern Europe as well, resulting in expanding socio-economic gaps at national and regional levels, an increase in Euroscepticism, raising illiberal trends and an assault on human rights. With a continuing trend of brain drain, corruption and weak institutions, the countries in this macro-region need to address the current shift towards a new model of development, towards a more sustainable, green and digital economy. The current disruptions of value chains coupled with the technological evolution have a greater impact on less developed economies, thus raising questions about the broader regional effects, and the social contract between the individuals and states.

10.30 – 10.50 Setting the stage for the discussions

Keynote Speaker: Mrs. Paloma Gonzalez, Deputy Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy in Bucharest

Host and Moderator: Ana-Maria Anghelescu, Deputy Project Manager ESEE Fanel Network

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PARALLEL SESSIONS

1. Social and economic vulnerabilities in the region	2. Green and digital transition in ESEE: challenges and opportunities
<p>Nino JIBUTI, Georgia <i>Strengthening healthcare sector resilience in Georgia: How non-government sector through foreign donors contributed to managing covid-19 pandemic in Georgia?</i></p> <p>Monica CALU – PhD Student SNSPA, United Consumers, Romania <i>Strategies to combat the effects of the pandemic caused by COVID-19 sensitive to the specific problems of women in Romania</i></p> <p>Miomira KOSTIC – University of Niš, Faculty of Law, Nip, Serbia <i>Social Vulnerability, Gender and Disaster due to Pandemic Covid 19</i></p> <p>Corina DODI – Associate Professor of the Department of State Legal Disciplines, Krok University of Economics and Law, Ukraine <i>Ukrainian Minority Language Media in the Covid-19 Period</i></p> <p>Maja MARKOVIC - Director of the Research and Advocacy Programe at NGO Juventas from Montenegro and a current Hubert Humphrey Fellow at the University of Minnesota, Montenegro <i>Housing in the Western Balkan: Lack of strategic planning?</i></p> <p>Moderator: Victoria Roşa, expert in international relations, former Security and Defence / EU affairs Adviser to the Moldovan Prime-minister Maia Sandu, Republic of Moldova</p> <p>Webex Link: Event number: 2730 699 2337 Event password: fanel</p>	<p>Ruxandra ȚUȚUIANU – PhD student SNSPA Romania <i>Common challenges, innovative solutions: green transition and digital transformation</i></p> <p>Mădălina STRATONE – PhD candidate in Management, Romania <i>Common challenges faced by both the Romanian and European SMEs regarding the green transition and digital transformation</i></p> <p>Adina Săniuță, PhD; Magda Jianu, PhD student – Facultatea de Management SNSPA Romania <i>Brain gain - return migration stimulation public policies. An innovative approach using corporative managerial strategies</i></p> <p>Miruna-Constantina ȚUȚUIANU – PhD student, SNSPA Romania <i>The New Romanian Economic Paradigm: How will it affect E.U. Green Deal targets' implementation within the National Energy System?</i></p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Alexandra Horobet, ASE, Bucuresti</p> <p>Webex Link: Event number: 2731 313 7645 Event password: fanel1</p>

Each speaker is invited to prepare a presentation (with or without PPT) of 12-15 minutes. Each session is followed by a Q&A with the attendance.

13.30 – 15.00 FANEL 2: Established and new regional cooperation formats and initiatives inside and outside the European Union

The end of the Cold War resulted in the proliferation of regional cooperation, addressing common issues. In Europe, where the states were facing transitions from centralized systems to democracy and market economies, these regional cooperation frameworks were established by former candidate countries (e.g. the Central European Initiative or the Visegrád Group), with the goal of preparing the EU accession and were persevered as platforms for political dialogue and partnerships. The international community supported a variety of sub-regional cooperation formats in the Balkans, as a way to pacify and support reconstruction efforts as a result of the war in the 1990s. Furthermore, since the launch of the European Neighbourhood Policy, numerous regional and sub-regional initiatives of multilateral cooperation have flourished. Some of these aim at further linking the regions with the European Union, such as the case of the EU Eastern Partnership, the Open Balkan Initiative or even the rebranded Community of Democratic Choice. On the other hand, Russia and China promoted their own regional cooperation initiatives, such as the Eurasian Economic Union or the 16+1 (previously, for a brief period, 17+1) framework with Central and Eastern Europe and the Belt and Road Initiative.

- **Gvantsa DAVITASHVILI (Professor, New Vision University, Georgia)** – *The EU's external resilience-building agenda and its' implementation in the Eastern Partnership Countries*
- **Alexandra PORUMBESCU (Senior lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania)** – *Strategic priorities in the design of the EU Security Union Strategy*
- **Elena Cătălina ȘTEFĂNESCU (PhD student SNSPA, working at the European Parliament)** – *Is the new regional cooperation format "Associated Trio" really welcomed?*
- **Donika EMINI (PhD student, University of Westminster, London); Miruna BUTNARU TRONCOTĂ (Assoc. Professor, National University of Political Science and Public Administration SNSPA, Bucharest)** – *Less is more? Assessing a Decade of Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue in the context of Regional Security in the Western Balkans*
- **Ionela Maria CIOLAN (Fellow, Center for European Policy, Bruxelles)** – *Building a joint NATO-EU climate security strategy*
- **Rusudan ZABAKHIDZE (Council for European Studies at Columbia University)** – *Georgia – Security Trends in Eastern Europe in Face of the Coronavirus Pandemic*

Moderator: Dr. Mihaela Padureanu, European Affairs expert, European Institute of Romania

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15.30 – 17.30 FANEL 3: International games in the region. Competing interests in ESEE and their consequences

Last year's unprecedented events, especially the pandemic and the natural disasters in Europe, Australia, Eurasia etc., have underlined the urgent need for more cooperation, democracy, inclusiveness and transparency and less competition between the major powers. Although there is noticeable progress in cooperation, competition is currently still dominant. As a result of globalization, the fast-paced world is experiencing not only a pandemic, but an infodemia also. As information travels very rapidly, the illiberal trends and fake news took over the region, where the competition for power prevails. In order to better cope with present and future crises, resilient societies and strong institutions are needed.

- **Liliana Tymchenko (Assoc. Professor, Department of Social Sciences, European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania; Ukraine)** – *The European State: Confronting the Past*
- **Ruxandra IVAN (Assoc. Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest)** – *Mind the gap: Eastern Europe's late turn towards illiberalism*
- **Olga Brusylowska (Professor Odessa National University I. I. Mechnikov, Ukraine)** – *Policy of the Peoples Republic of China in the Black Sea*
- **Diana-Oana Strimbeanu (PhD student SNSPA, Romania)** – *The rise through smart power. China`s strategy in South Eastern Europe*
- **Oana Cristea (PhD student SNSPA; Head of Unit in the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania – General Directorate for EU Territorial Cooperation, Romania)** – *The Western Balkans - an area of geopolitical competition*
- **Doina Gavrilov (Ph.D. SNSPA Romania/ Republic of Moldova)** – *Europe and China: cultural clashes or cultural blending?*

Moderator: Olivia Todorean, Ph.D, diplomat and scholar

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17.30 – 18.00 CLOSING SESSION

- **Prof. Liliana POPESCU** – concluding remarks.

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