

About the authors

Thomas Batten lives in the Boston area and is completing a thesis for a research-based master's degree. He is also on the board of a private equity firm where he assists in the due diligence in relation to energy-related opportunities. His research is focused principally on Caspian Sea and Central Asian geopolitics and energy politics. e-mail: thomasbatten@fas.harvard.edu

Jürgen Buxbaum is a sociologist. He has been closely related to Bosnia i Herzegovina for eighteen years, and lived in the country for seven years during which time he was Director of the South-East Europe office of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Currently, he is Co-ordinator for Public Administration and Multinational Enterprises at Public Services International. He is writing here in a personal capacity.

Martin Hutsebaut was a long-serving senior researcher and administrative director at the European Trade Union Institute in Brussels. Since his retirement he has been working on a number of research projects focusing on taxation and the welfare state, some of which focus on the western Balkans.

Ermira Hoxha Kalaj PhD is Lecturer at Aleksander Moisiu University, Durrës, Albania, where she is engaged in research and teaching in the areas of microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics. e-mail: ermirafoxha@uamd.edu.al

Dobrin Kanev PhD is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science of New Bulgarian University, Sofia. He is co-editor of a forthcoming book reviewing the democratic situation in Bulgaria: D. Kanev and A. Todorov (Eds.) (2014) *The Quality of Democracy in Bulgaria* East-West Publishing: Sofia. e-mail: dkanev@nbu.bg

Eduart Lika is a PhD candidate at the European University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania, where he is researching the economy and sustainable development. He was previously at Opportunity Albania and also at INSTAT, where he worked until 2011 including on the Census of Population and Housing. e-mail: eduartlika@gmail.com

Andrea Olšovská is Assistant Lecturer in labour law at the Faculty of Law of Trnava University, Trnava. She is also a lawyer specialising in labour law issues and a chair of the Labour Law Association. Her research themes concentrate chiefly on the field of individual labour law relations, agency work and the secondment of workers. Her most important publications include Helena Barancova and Andrea Olsovska (2009) *Slovak labour law* Ales Cenek: Plzen. e-mail: lla@labourlaw.sk

Christophe Solioz is an author and political commentator, as well as philosophy and German literature professor at the Collège de Genève. He is also co-director, with

About the authors

Wolfgang Petritsch, of the series *Southeast European Integration Perspectives* at the Nomos publishing house. e-mail: csolioz@mac.com

Marek Švec is Head of the Division of Economics, Collective Bargaining and Legislation at the Metalworkers' Federation, KOVO. He is also a Lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava and Secretary-General of the Labour Law Association. His research focuses on collective labour law relations, trade unions, collective bargaining and the use of coercive means in practice. His most important publications include Marek Švec (2012) *Flexicurity for the 21st century* Bratislava: Sprint dva. e-mail: lla@labourlaw.sk