

## About the Authors

**Besiana Elezi** is Erasmus+ Coordinator in the Directorate of Projects and International Relations at University 'Aleksandër Moisiu', Durrës, Albania. e-mail: besianaelezi@uamd.edu.al.

**Ela Golemi** PhD is Associate Professor and a member of the Economics Department in the Faculty of Business at University 'Aleksandër Moisiu', Durrës, Albania. Her research interests focus mainly on issues related to the stability of the financial system and the regional strategies of the western Balkans for integration in the European Union. She is also a member of the Editorial Board of the SEER Journal. e-mail: elagolemi@uamd.edu.al.

**Eva Hyna** PhD is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Agriculture and Economics at the Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania. e-mail: evahyna@yahoo.com.

**Elira Jorgoni** has 15 years of consulting experience in governance and public policies with several donors and partners. She is the country expert and co/author of several research papers and assessment reports at national or regional level on social inclusion and protection funded by DG Employment/European Commission, OECD, SDC, UN and ADA and the ETF. During the last years, Elira has been a local expert in the planning, implementation and monitoring of reforms for an integrated EU accession process in Albania in employment and social policy. e-mail: elira.jorgoni@gmail.com.

**Jadranka Kaluđerović** Prof. Dr. is Associate Professor at the University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro. She received her PhD in 2010 from the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, being elected Associate Professor in 2017. She is also Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses (ISSP) in Podgorica, Montenegro and a former member of Working Group 25 – Science and Research for the Accession of Montenegro to the European Union. e-mail: jkaludjerovic@t-com.me.

**Rajko Kosanović** PhD heads the Department for Legal, Economic and Social Affairs at the Confederation of Autonomous Trade Union of Serbia. He holds a doctorate in legal-economic sciences. He has published several books and over 450 articles. A former chair of the Board of Directors of the Republican Health Insurance Fund, he has also been a member of numerous expert teams and committees that have prepared acts of law and bylaws related to labour law, health care, health insurance, unemployment insurance and pension insurance.

**Enkelejd Musabelliu** is a political economist with extensive experience in economic development, strategic planning and social policy issues. He graduated in philosophy from the University of Tirana and in European Political Economy from the London School of Economics. Currently, he is Deputy Minister in Ministria e Ekonomisë, Kulturës dhe Inovacionit (MEKI; Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation).

**Nikolina Obradović** is Associate Professor in Social Policy at the University of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her research is focused on social policy in the western Balkans, including the relationship between social policy and political clientelism, gender and social inequalities. She is also National Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina at the European Social Policy Network (ESPN), providing expertise on social policy issues and in monitoring the progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards the EU social protection and social inclusion objectives. e-mail: 686nika@gmail.com.

**Sanja Paunović** PhD is Economic Counsellor to the Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia. She holds a PhD in economics from Singidunum University, where she defended a thesis focused on the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during the economic crisis. Dr. Paunović is the author of several books and has published over one hundred articles in the fields of economics, labour policy and social protection. She is an active member of the standing Social Protection Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), as well as a member of its Quality Employment and Labour Market Committee. e-mail: psanja@rocket-mail.com.

**Rati Ratianu** has an MA in political science from Tbilisi State University and the Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin (Berlin School of Economics and Law). He is co-founder of the Georgian social media platform Mautskebeli.ge. e-mail: r.ratianig@gmail.com.

**Ada Shima** is a consultant in labour market policies and the co-founder of Creative Protocols. She has managed various programmes at UNDP, supporting reforms in employment, education and professional training policies in Albania and Kosovo. Her professional focus is on social protection systems, emphasising active job growth and the modernisation of public employment services. She holds a master's degree in social policy and development from the London School of Economics.

**Christophe Solioz** has, from the early 1990s, been involved in various citizens' initiatives in former Yugoslavia, most notably in the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly. A founder member of the Association Bosnia and Herzegovina 2005 (2003-2005) and, later, of the Center for European Integration Studies (2005-2014), he now lives in Geneva as Professor of Philosophy at the Collège de Genève and is Secretary General of the Multiplex Approach (MAP) Nomad Think Tank. His work in the field of international relations focuses on the analysis of transition and democratisation processes, regional cooperation and a comparative approach to the 'new regionalism'. e-mail: csolioz@mac.com.

**Suela Spahija** MSc. is a part-time lecturer at 'Aleksandër Moisiu' University, Durrës, Albania. E-mail: spahijasuela@gmail.com.

**Iva Vukčević** is Researcher at the Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses, Podgorica, Montenegro. Her research focuses on social policies, youth activation and development and migration, in which field she is also part of WBMIGNET (Western Balkans Migration Network). She is currently enrolled in a master's programme in international economics at the University of Donja Gorica.

**Shqipe Xhaferri** is Associate Professor in the Department of Finance and Accounting of 'Aleksandër Moisiu' University, Durrës, Albania, having earned her doctorate in economic sciences from the University of Durrës in 2015. She is the author and co-author of over a dozen publications and conference papers primarily focused on the fields of accounting and finance.

**Alma Zisi** Dr. is Head of the Department of Economic Sciences of 'Aleksandër Moisiu' University, Durrës, Albania where is also teaches various courses in economics. She received her PhD in September 2014 at the university's Faculty of Business. Her research areas are focused on the impact of foreign direct investment, unemployment, young people and economic policies in the area of sustainable growth.