EWPPP

East-West Parliamentary Practice Project

Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy

WESTERN BALKANS IN AN EXPENDING EUROPE

Legislatures and Citizens Regional Conference

6-9 December 2007, Istanmbul, Turkey,

Handbook

The East-West Parliamentary Practice (EWPPP) works to support and strengthen parliaments in countries faced with the enormous challenges related to the long process of democratic, political, social and economic transition.

National and regional stability ultimately depend upon the development of legitimate democratic institutions. The EWPPP maintains a dynamic network consisting of national parliaments and civil society organizations (CSOs) working to promote innovative approaches towards good governance. EWPPP programmes are demand driven and specifically designed to address the needs and concerns of particular parliaments.

PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

All EWPPP programmes are non-partisan in approach and pluralistic in participation, providing a politically neutral forum for the free exchange of information and experience.

The EWPPP develops and implements national, regional and international programmes for members of parliament, parliamentary staffs and representatives of civil society from emerging democracies in Eastern/Southeastern Europe and Eurasia. EWPPP programmes concentrate on the ways in which parliaments can effectively address a variety of political, organizational, procedural and policy issues. At the same time, EWPPP programmes aim to promote sustainable partnerships between parliaments and CSOs.

EWPPP programmes take a theme-based approach aimed at:

- Promoting activities that reflect good governance;
- Supporting legislative development and reform;
- Encouraging parliaments to utilize the advice and support role CSOs can play in the process of developing legislation and helping parliament positively communicate with its electorate;
- Reinforcing neighborly communication and cooperation by facilitating cross-border exchanges among programme participants;
- Contributing to national and regional understanding of EU expectations and guidelines for the accession process through professionalizing parliamentary processes;
- Facilitating integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The EWPPP has two equally important partners in the implementation of its programmes – parliaments and civil societies. Over the last five years, EWPPP local partner organizations have included:

Albania:	Albanian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) <www.achr.org>
Bosnia/Herzegovina:	Centre for Civic Initiatives (CCI) <www.ccibh.org>
Bulgaria:	Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation (FDBF) <www.fdbf.org> Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR) <www.flgr.org>
Croatia:	Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights <www.open.hr/com/hho/english>
Kosovo:	Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development <www.kipred.net>
Kyrgyzstan:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) <www.undp.kg>
Macedonia:	Centre for Strategic Research and Documentation (FORUM) <www.forum-csrd.org.mk>
Montenegro:	Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) <www.cedem.cg.yu> Centre for Democratic Transition (CDT) <www.cdtmn.org>
Romania:	Pro-Democracy Association (APD) <www.apd.ro>
Russia:	Institute for Law and Public Policy (ILPP) <www.ilpp.ru>
Serbia:	European Movement in Serbia (EMINS) <www.emins.org>

LEGISLATURES AND CITIZENS: STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The EWPPP programme 'Legislatures and Citizens' assists the Western Balkan countries in the complex process of democratic reform. The primary objective of this regional programme is to strengthen the capacity of parliaments and promote civil society participation in the decision-making process.

Throughout the course of the programme, *parliament/civil society teams* have jointly shaped and planned project activities.

The *regional roundtables* have brought together MPs and NGO representatives from throughout the region, providing a forum for the exchange of experience and ideas on issues of regional interest and an opportunity for network-building and cooperation.

The *Standing Regional Conferences* bring together parliamentarians and NGO representatives from the Western Balkans, Western Europe, and the greater Southeastern European region to discuss the process of European integration. Two standing conferences have been held to date – in Thessaloniki, Greece, and Portoroz, Slovenia. The Portoroz conference resulted in a joint statement expressing a commitment to strengthen regional cooperation among the parliaments and civil societies of the Western Balkans, to work together to overcome obstacles in the path to EU and Euro-Atlantic integration. The final standing regional conference, to be held in Istanbul, will focus on regional approaches toward fulfilling the requirements of membership in European and Euro-Altantic institutions.

The *Trilateral Exchange visits* have been particularly valuable in providing parliamentary-cso delegations from different countries in the region with an opportunity to visit alternating host country parliaments. This has enhanced regional cooperation on a variety of issues of common interest.

LIST OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES ORGANISED TO DATE:

1. Tirana, Albania, Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting, 18 December 2004
2. Skopje, Macedonia, Regional Roundtable "New Challenges and Objectives", 12-14 January 2005
3. Thessaloniki, Greece, Preparatory Trip for the Standing Regional Conference, 25-27 February 2005
4. Pristina, Kosovo, Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting, 7 March 2005
5. Podgorica, Montenegro, Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting, 18 March 2005
6. Tirana, Albania, Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting, 24 March 2005
7. Belgrade, Serbia, Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting, 25 March 2005
8. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting, 25 March
9. Skopje, Macedonia, Regional Roundtable "Transparent and Accountable Governance of the Local Authorities", 27-29 March 2005
10. Thessaloniki, Greece, Standing Conference of Parliaments and NGOs "Promoting EU standards of good governance and rule of law at the domestic and regional level", 14-17 April 2005

Skopje, Macedonia, 27-29 March 2005

Thessaloniki, Greece, 14-17 April 2005

11. Skopje, Macedonia, 12 May 2005: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team.
12. Kruja/Tirana, Albania, 12-16 May 2005: Trilateral exchange visit of MPs and NGO's from Serbia and BIH to Albania

Tirana, Albania, 12-16 May 2005

13. Ohrid/Struga/Skopje, Macedonia, 27-31 May 2005: Trilateral Exchange Visit of Kosovar and Montenegro Parliamentary/NGO Delegations to Macedonia

Ohrid, Macedonia, 27-31 May 2005

14. Sarajevo, BiH, 31 May 2005: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team.
15. Sarajevo, BiH, 20-22 June 2005: Regional roundtable *Liberalization of visa regulations in BIH: experience from the region and EU countries*

Sarajevo, BiH, 21 June 2005

16. Podgorica, Montenegro, 7 July 2005: In-country Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting
17. Kotor/Ulcinj/Podgorica, Montenegro, 12-16 July 2005: Trilateral Exchange Visit of Macedonian and Kosovar Parliamentary/NGO Delegations to Montenegro
18. Pristina, Kosovo, 15 September 2005: In-country Parliament/Civil Society Team Meetings
19. Tirana, Albania, 19 September 2005: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team

20. Pristina, Kosovo, 12-14 October 2005: Regional Roundtable *Election Systems: Problems of Representation and Accountability in Kosovo and Macedonia*

Pristina, Kosovo, 12-14 October 2005

21. Banja Luka, BiH, 17 October 2005: In-country working meetings with MPs and NGOs
22. Skopje, Macedonia, 18 October 2005: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team
23. Novi Sad/Beograd, Serbia, 24-28 October 2005: Trilateral exchange visit of MPs and NGO's from Albania and BIH to Serbia
24. Pristina, Kosovo, 28 October 2005: In-country Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting Tirana, Albania, 2 November 2005: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team
25. Podgorica, Montenegro, 3-5 November 2005: Regional Roundtable *Role of EU in Southeastern Europe*
26. Prizren/Pristina, Kosovo, 15-18 November 2005: Trilateral Exchange Visit of Macedonian and Montenegro Parliamentary/NGO Delegations to Kosovo
27. Sarajevo, BiH, 21-25 November 2005: Trilateral exchange visit of MPs and NGO from Albania and Serbia to BiH
28. Mostar, BiH, 30 November 2005: Regional Roundtable *Strategy on BIH integrating into European Union*
29. Pristina, Kosovo, 2 December 2005: In-country Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting
30. Tirana, Albania, 10 December 2005: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team
31. Tirana, Albania, 13-15 December 2005: Regional Roundtable *Implementing EU standards-domestic and regional challenges*

Tirana, Albania, 14 December 2005

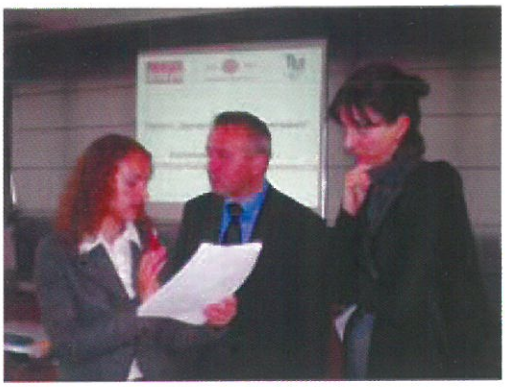
32. Belgrade, Serbia, 1 March 2006: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team
33. Pristina, Kosovo, 3 March 2006: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team
34. Pristina, Kosovo, 24-26 March 2006: Regional Roundtable *Electorate Systems and Political Representation*
35. Podgorica, Montenegro, 20 March 2006: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team
36. Belgrade, Serbia, 17 April 2006: In-country working meeting of the NGO and parliament team
37. Portoroz, Slovenia, 20-23 April 2006: Standing Regional Conference "Regional Cooperation in the EU Integration Process"
38. Belgrade, Serbia 12 May 2006, In-Country Parliament/Civil Society Team Meeting
39. Skopje, Macedonia 17-21 May 2006, Trilateral Exchange Visit and Regional Roundtable, *Reforms in the Security Sector*
40. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 31 May-3 June 2006, Trilateral Exchange Visit
41. Podgorica, Montenegro 20-24 June 2006, Trilateral Exchange Visit

Podgorica, Montenegro 20-24 June 2006

42. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 12 September 2006, Regional Roundtable, *Obstacles on BiH's Way to the EU – How to Achieve a More Liberal Visa Regime in BiH and the Region*
43. Tirana, Albania 18-22 October 2006, Trilateral Exchange and Regional Roundtable, "Regional Cooperation in the Euro-Atlantic Integration Process"
44. The Hague 29 October–2 November 2006, Young Politicians Study Visit
45. Podgorica, Montenegro 14-16 December 2006, Regional Roundtable, "The Constitution and Minority Rights"
46. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 26-28 February 2007, Regional Roundtable, "Possibilities and Obstacles on BiH's Road towards EU Integration-Regional Experiences and Perspectives"
47. Skopje, Macedonia 21-23 March 2007, Trilateral Exchange Visit of a joint delegation of NGOs and MPs from Bosnia and Herzegivina and Montenegro

Skopje, Macedonia, 21 - 23 March 2007

48. Skopje, Macedonia 22 March 2007, Regional Roundtable "Corruption in the Balkans: Does Perception Correspond to Reality?"



Skopje, Macedonia, 21-23 March 2007

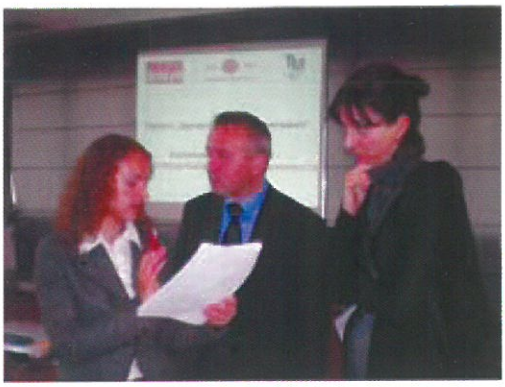
49. Pristina, Kosovo 25-28 April 2007, Trilateral Exchange Visit of a joint delegation of NGOs and MPs from Albania
50. Pristina, Kosovo 25-28 April 2007, Regional Roundtable, "Parliamentary and Civil Society Oversight Practices of the European Union Integration Process"

Pristina, Kosovo, 25-28 April 2007

Pistina, Kosovo, 25-28 April 2007

51. Tirana, Albania 17-19 May 2007, Regional Roundtable "Regional Parliamentary Initiatives"
52. Pristina, Kosovo 18-20 October 2007, Trilateral visit of a joint delegation of MPs and NGOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania
53. Pristina, Kosovo 19 October 2007, Regional Roundtable "Parliaments and the reform of education"

48. Skopje, Macedonia 22 March 2007, Regional Roundtable "Corruption in the Balkans: Does Perception Correspond to Reality?"



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EWPP WBDI western balkans democracy inititative

ZAPADNI BALKAN U EVROPI KOJA SE ŠIRI
Regionalna konferencija „Zakonodavstvo i građani"
6.-9. decembar, Istambul, Turska

Nacrt Dnevnog reda

„Čini se da nema jasnog dogovora ili razumijevanja oko toga za šta se Evropa zalaže i kamo ide. Potreban nam je novi konsenzus, zajednička percepcija jedne nove, savremene priče o tome šta Evropa u suštini predstavlja. Iz tog razloga imamo „Plan D". U okviru perioda promišljanja, ovaj plan je usmjeren na raspravu o budućnosti Evrope sa građanima."
José Manuel Barroso, Predsjednik Evropske komisije
Margot Wallström, Potpredsjednica Evropske komisije zadužena za institucionalne odnose i komunikacijsku strategiju

PRVI DAN
Konferenciju otvara Lord Roper

10:00 – 11:00 h
Sesija 1
Kako javnost doživljava Evropu
Moderator: Lord Roper
Jaz između Evropske unije i njenih građana je općenito prepoznat. Prema anketama javnog mišljenja koje je proveo Eurobarometar u posljednjih nekoliko godina, mnogi od intervjuiranih ljudi rekli su da malo znaju o EU i da imaju osjećaj da malo mogu utjecati na proces odlučivanja u EU. U tom smislu, za jednu zdravu demokraciju komunikacija je od suštinskog značaja. To je jedan dvosmjeran proces. Demokracija može napredovati jedino ako građani znaju šta se dešava i ako u potpunosti mogu učestvovati u tom procesu.

Kako parlamentarci komuniciraju sa svojim građanima?
Kako parlamentarci mogu istraživati načine na koje mogu doprijeti do građana EU putem ključnih aktera u zemlji, kao što su preduzeća, sindikati i nevladine organizacije?

UČESNICI PANEL-DISKUSIJE:
Šefik Džaferovic, zastupnik, Predstavnički dom Parlamentarne skupštine BIH
Predstavnik NVO-a iz Albanije
Predstavnik Parlamenta Srbije
Predstavnik NVO-a iz Makedonije

11:00 – 11:30 h
Kafe-pauza

11:30 – 12:00 h
Sesija 2
Parlament u očima javnosti
Moderator:

Jesu li parlamenti uspješni u komuniciranju s javnošću i medijima?
Da li se parlament predstavlja na informativan i pristupačan način i može li privući veći broj ljudi?
Kako parlament može angažirati ljude na lokalnom nivou?
Da li gostujući parlament predstavlja koristan način na koji ljudi mogu saznati više o onome što se tamo događa?
Na koji način parlament može bolje informirati javnost, a posebno mlade, o onome šta radi?

UČESNICI PANEL-DISKUSIJE:
Predstavnik Parlamenta Srbije
Darko Fras, Član Senata, Parlament Slovenije
Predstavnik nevladine organizacije iz Makedonije
Predstavnik Parlamenta Albanije

12:30 – 13:00 h
Diskusija i rezime

13:00 – 15:00 h
Ručak

15:00 – 16.00 h
Sesija 3
Integracija u EU i NATO: šanse i izazovi
Moderator:
Postoji li potreba za organiziranjem kampanje podizanja svijesti građana na Zapadnom Balkanu o integraciji u EU/NATO?
Koji različiti pristupi postoje u tom pogledu?
Kakva je uloga zakonodavaca i građana u ovom procesu?
Da li zakonodavci i građani na Zapadnom Balkanu ovaj proces smatraju svojim i osjećaju se odgovornim za njega ili on za njih predstavlja tek političku aktivnost koju izvršavaju njihove vlade?

UČESNICI PANEL-DISKUSIJE:
Raynell Andreychuk, Član Gornjeg doma Parlamenta Kanade, Član Parlamentarne skupštine NATO-a
Predstavnik nevladine organizacije iz Crne Gore
Predstavnik Parlamenta Makedonije

16:00 – 16:30 h
Kafe-pauza

16:30 – 17:00 h
Nastavak sesije 3
UČESNICI PANEL-DISKUSIJE:
Predstavnik Parlamenta Kosovo

Ova konferencija održava se u okviru projekta *„Zakonodavstvo i građani"*, koji predstavlja zajedničku inicijativu EWPPP i predstavnika parlamenata i civilnog društva Albanije, Bosne i Hercegovine, Makedonije, Crne Gore, Srbije i Kosova. Projekat *„Zakonodavstvo i građani"* finansira Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova Nizozemske.

Safet Softic, predsjedavajući Predstavničkog doma Parlamenta Federacije BIH
Predstavnik Parlamenta Crne Gore

17:00 – 17:30 h
Diskusija i rezime

20.00
Večera
Restoran Feriye , Çırağan Cadesi 40 Ortaköy, Istanbul

DRUGI DAN
10:00 – 11:00 h
Sesija 4
Plan D za Balkan: demokracija, dijalog, debata
Moderator: Petra Blass
Građani očekuju od Evrope da im, u situaciji kad se suočavaju s globalizacijom, pruži prosperitet, solidarnost i sigurnost. S tim u vezi, Evropska komisija je prošle godine utvrdila Plan djelovanja sa detaljnim popisom konkretnih mjera koje će poduzeti kako bi unaprijedila način na koji komunicira sa svojim građanima. Komisija je također pokrenula „Plan D za demokraciju, dijalog i debatu" kako bi uključila građane u široku, sveobuhvatnu raspravu o Evropskoj uniji – o tome šta je EU, u kojem pravcu ona ide i šta treba činiti. Ovaj novi vid komuniciranja uslijedio je kao odgovor na institucionalnu krizu izazvanu odbijanjem Francuske i Nizozemske da podrže nacrt Ustava EU 2005. godine.
Šta Plan D znači za Evropu?
Šta je bio povod glasanju protiv Ustava EU 2005. godine?

UČESNICI PANEL-DISKUSIJE:
Harm Evert Walkens, MP, Nizozemski Parlament, Predsjedavajući Komisije za evropske poslove
Predstavnik NVO-a sa Kosova
Predstavnik Parlamenta Crne Gore
Dr. Nermina Kapetanovic, zastupnik, House of Representatives, Parliament of Federation of BIH

11:00 – 11:30 h
Kafe-pauza

11:30 – 12:30 h
Nastavak sesije 4
Da li je Plan D dobra zamisao za Balkan?
Ako jeste, kako se on može provesti?
Da li su građani Zap. Balkana svjesni svojih prava i odgovornosti u pogledu članstva u EU!?
UČESNICI PANEL-DISKUSIJE:
Predstavnik NVO-a iz Srbije

Ova konferencija održava se u okviru projekta „*Zakonodavstvo i građani*", koji predstavlja zajedničku inicijativu EWPPP i predstavnika parlamenata i civilnog društva Albanije, Bosne i Hercegovine, Makedonije, Crne Gore, Srbije i Kosova. Projekat „*Zakonodavstvo i građani*" finansira Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova Nizozemske.

Sefket Hafizovic(zamjenik predsjednika)/Borislav Bojic (poslanik), Narodna Skupština Republike Srpske

12:30 – 13:00 h
Diskusija i rezime

13:00 – 15:00 h
Ručak

15:00 – 16:00 h
Sesija 5
Zajednička izjava iz Portoroža
Moderator: Lord Roper
Rezultat Konferencije u Portorožu bila je zajednička izjava u kojoj je izraženo opredjeljenje ka jačanju regionalne saradnje između parlamenata i civilnog društva na Zapadnom Balkanu te saradnji na prevazilaženju svih prepreka koje stoje na putu integracije u EU i Euroatlanske integracije.

Kakvi se konkretni koraci mogu poduzeti na ostvarivanjuovih ciljeva?

UČESNICI PANEL-DISKUSIJE:
Predstavnik Parlamenta/nevladine organizacije Albanije
Mirsad Ceman (advokat)/Ivica Cavar (CCI Project Manager)
Predstavnik Parlamenta/nevladine organizacije Makedonije
Predstavnik Parlamenta/nevladine organizacije Crne Gore
Predstavnik Parlamenta/nevladine organizacije Srbije
Predstavnik Parlamenta/nevladine organizacije Kosova

16:00 – 16:30 h
Kafe-pauza

16:30 – 17:00 h
Nastavak sesije 5
Budući pravci djelovanja na regionalnom nivou.

UČESNICI PANEL-DISKUSIJA

17:00 – 17:30 h
Završna riječ Lorda Ropera

20:00
Večera
Restoran Mavi Balık, Muallim Naci Caddesi 64/2 Kuruçeşme, Istanbul

Ova konferencija održava se u okviru projekta „*Zakonodavstvo i građani*", koji predstavlja zajedničku inicijativu EWPPP i predstavnika parlamenata i civilnog društva Albanije, Bosne i Hercegovine, Makedonije, Crne Gore, Srbije i Kosova. Projekat „*Zakonodavstvo i građani*" finansira Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova Nizozemske.