

MULTICULTURALISM
IN PUBLIC POLICIES

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South-East Europe



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Foreword

■ The Academic Network for Research Support in Southeast Europe was based on the ideas and activities developed and fostered through the research of multiculturalism and ethnicity by researchers in several university centres in the region – the Institute for Ethnic Studies in Ljubljana, the Centre for International and Security Studies at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, and the Centre for Ethnicity Research in Belgrade.

Although formal cooperation has never been established among these rather diverse institutions and organisations, the flow of ideas and communication among them has been maintained continually. Since 1996, a group of experts gathered around Professor Siniša Tatalović of the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, has been organising multidisciplinary scholarly gatherings on ethnicity research methods and diversity management practices in multiethnic societies. In Belgrade, a group of dedicated experts from the Centre for Ethnicity Research has developed the first comparative research of multiculturalism policies in the region, published in the collections of papers *Demokratija i nacionalne manjine* [Democracy and National Minorities] (2002), *Democracy and Multiculturalism in South East Europe* (2003) and *Perspektive multikulturalizma u državama zapadnog Balkana* [Prospects of Multiculturalism in Western Balkan States] (2004). Finally, in Ljubljana, at the Institute for Ethnic Studies, founded in 1925, diverse research has been conducted on the

phenomena of multiculturalism and ethnicity. Although they developed independently of one another, these research endeavours and activities have been linked in intellectual synergy and the common need to provide answers to the questions on the organisation of multiethnic societies, emerging in the course of the democratic transition of the region, consequently resulting in the creation of a tightly knit network of researchers and ideas, which easily attracted and expanded the circle of collocutors and collaborators.

The Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade, with its strong academic centres researching migration and ethnicity, recognised the importance of the aforementioned research and first joined in, and later developed and strengthened the structure of the network. The Academic Network for Research Support in Southeast Europe was established at the round table *Democracy, Multiculturalism and Ethno-Cultural Policies in West Balkan States* and, in addition to the three aforementioned academic institutions, the co-founding document was also signed by the Faculties of Political Sciences from Sarajevo and Podgorica and the Euro-Balkan University from Skopje in early September 2017.

The collection of papers *Multiculturalism in Public Policies* offers a review of the ongoing issues concerning the status of national and ethnic minorities and immigrants, as well as of the ways in which their status is regulated in five countries of the region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia. Although all these states have adopted multiculturalism policies, they are facing different challenges of multiethnicity. The institutional and social responses to these challenges have not always been in line with the expectations of the people to live safely, unafraid of being abused due to their nationality, religion or any other personal trait rooted in their ethnicity. The characteristics of the existing multiculturalism policies were carefully analysed in this publication and the ideas offered herewith by the authors to the scientific and social community are to contribute to deliberations on the organisation of multiethnic societies based on trust, the rule of law and stability.

Goran Bašić
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