



Meeting: Supporting Election Studies in the Balkans

Saturday April 21 and Sunday April 22, 2012

The Institute of Social Sciences
(Institut Društvenih Nauka, IDN)
Belgrade, Serbia

Coordinated by:

The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES)

<http://www.cses.org>

and

The Institute of Social Sciences (IDN)

<http://www.idn.org.rs/>

Sponsored by:

The Center for Political Studies (CPS), University of Michigan

<http://www.isr.umich.edu/cps>

...on behalf of the CSES project

Conference location

The Institute of Social Sciences
Institut Društvenih Nauka (IDN)
Kraljice Natalije 45
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel: +381 11 3613-856
Email: office@idn.org.rs
Website: <http://www.idn.org.rs/>

Information for visitors from outside of Serbia

Local Contact Information

In case of any need or question when you arrive in Serbia, please feel free to contact either of the following persons:

- Bojan Todosijević (bojan.todosijevic@gmail.com); phone: +381-(0)24-4767-145; cell: +381(0)63-8047-868
- Zoran Pavlović (pavlozoran@gmail.com); phone: +381-(0)64-242-0837.

Hotel

We have already reserved the hotel rooms for participants from outside of Serbia. When you arrive you can let them know your name and the conference you are here for. The hotel location and contact information is:

Hotel Excelsior
Kneza Miloša 5, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel: +381 11 32 31 381
Fax: +381 11 32 31 951
Email: recepcija@hotelexcelsior.rs
Website: <http://www.hotelexcelsior.co.rs/>

The hotel you is only approximately 400 meters from the conference location (the IDN). For the route from the hotel to the conference location, please see the map at:
<http://g.co/maps/bhd7y>

Local transportation

The [Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport](#) (also known as Surčin) is located about 18 kilometers from central Belgrade. The airport website is: <http://www.beg.aero/welcome.54.html>

Public transport and taxi can be used for transfer from the airport to the hotel. The details for these options are below. Further information about transfer from and to the airport can be found on the airport website above. There is also some helpful information about local transportation on the WikiTravel website, including some precautions about how to make sure you are selecting a legitimate taxi at the airport: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Belgrade>. This site also has some interesting and useful information about the city in general.

We are also looking into the possibility of arranging the airport transport for you; if we are able to do that, we will let you know the details sometime prior to the conference. Otherwise, the following are the options that are available.

Mini-bus is recommended as it is inexpensive and efficient. From Slavija Square to the hotel it is about 12 minutes walk. Taxi can also be hired for this distance.

The route: <http://g.co/maps/j9cgy>

Mini-bus

Mini bus line A1

Route: Direction A Slavija Square - Belgrade "Nikola Tesla" Airport
Direction B Belgrade "Nikola Tesla" Airport - Slavija Square

Ticket price: 250 RSD (tickets can be obtained in the bus)

Approximate travel time: 30 minutes

Bus

PTC "Belgrade" Line 72

Route: <http://www.gsp.rs/english/additional.asp?id=72>

Route: Belgrade "Nikola Tesla" Airport - Zeleni venac
05:20 until 00:00 hours; departs every 32 minutes

Route: Zeleni venac - Belgrade "Nikola Tesla" Airport
04:40 until 23:40 hours; departs every 32 minutes

Ticket price: 95 RSD (if bought on newsstand - ask for "Bus-plus" ticket, and validate it at the entry into the bus), 145 RSD (if bought in the bus from the driver).

* Source: www.gsp.rs

Approximate travel time: 30 - 40 minutes

Route from Zeleni Venac to the hotel: <http://g.co/maps/pz769> (takes about 15 minutes walk).

Taxi

Taxi Fares

Service	Tariff 1 (06:00-22:00)	Tariff 2 (22:00-06:00, Weekdays and Holidays)	Tariff 3 (Outside City)
Start	140	140	140
Price Per km	55	70	110
Waiting Per Hour	750	750	750

* All prices are in RSD

Source: <http://www.beograd.rs/>

Hotel Transfer

The Hotel Excelsior can also organize airport transfer upon request. An advance reservation is recommended.

Exchange rates

1 Euro ~ 110 RSD

1 USD ~ 85 RSD

There are many exchange offices all around the city. Serbian dinars can also be obtained from ATMs.

Reimbursements

CSES will cover the costs of the group meals (meaning group lunches on the two meeting days, and group dinners) for both local and non-local participants. Those persons staying at the Hotel Excelsior can take their breakfast at the hotel, as the cost of their breakfast is included in the room price at no additional charge.

For participants from outside of Serbia, CSES will also cover these additional costs:

- CSES will reimburse your basic travel costs to the meeting location. Please help our limited budget by arranging for the best fare possible. If you are traveling by plane, it must be economy/coach class airfare. If by train, it cannot be first/business class. If you will drive your own car, we can reimburse your mileage at the approved United States government rate, but only up to the amount it would have cost you to travel by plane or train (whichever is cheaper). If your airfare cost will exceed \$500, or your train cost will exceed \$300, please contact David Howell (dahowell@umich.edu) in advance for prior approval. And please make sure to save your receipts as they are necessary for the reimbursement.
- CSES has paid the basic cost of your hotel room for the period of the conference (meaning the basic room cost and associated taxes and fees). We have reserved rooms for everyone for Friday and Saturday nights, and also some rooms for Sunday night for those who are not able to return home on Sunday night due to flight/train availability. Once your travel plans have been finalized, please inform Bojan Todosijevic (bojan.todosijevic@gmail.com) so he can confirm with the hotel what nights (Friday, Saturday, and/or Sunday) you will need a room for. Please note that any additional expenses such as telephone, room service, beverages, snacks, mini-bar, gratuities, or other personal expenses will not be covered by CSES, and should be paid to the hotel prior to your departure. If you wish to stay additional nights at the hotel for tourism or other reasons, please contact the hotel directly to extend your stay for additional nights at your own expense.
- CSES is also able to cover a limited amount of additional reasonable expenses, as long as they are directly related to your attendance of the meeting – for instance, travel visa fees. Reimbursing these expenses will require presentation of your original receipts. To be certain that an expense is reimbursable, please contact David Howell (dahowell@umich.edu) ahead of time for pre-approval.

Reimbursement forms will be sent to visitors via email prior to the conference. Additional copies will be available at the conference from David Howell.

Participants will be reimbursed after the conference, after all receipts are received, by either wire transfer or mailed check. Processing reimbursements can require up to 2-3 weeks, though we will work to process them as quickly as possible. You will need to allow additional time for postal service mailing, or for your bank to process the received payment.

It will not be possible to reimburse participants before the meeting except in cases of extreme financial hardship. Please contact David Howell (dahowell@umich.edu) if this applies to you, to discuss what options might be possible.

AGENDA

Friday April 20, 2012

Participants from outside of Serbia arrive at the Hotel Excelsior.

- Optional group dinner. Meeting at the Hotel lobby 18:30

Saturday April 21, 2012

08:00 – 09:00

- Registration at the IDN, Conference Room 1st floor

09:00 – 12:00

- Opening [30 minutes]
 - Welcome
David Howell, CSES
 - Welcome from IDN
Ognjen Pribičević, Institute for Social Sciences, Belgrade
 - Agenda and goals of the meeting
David Howell, CSES
- Elections and Democracy: The Relevance of Election Studies in the Balkans [30-40 minutes]
Bernhard Wessels, CSES and WZB, Berlin
- An Overview of the CSES Project [30 minutes]
David Howell, CSES
- The Substantive Themes of CSES Modules 1 and 2 [15 minutes]
Bojan Todosijević, CSES and IDN
- The Substantive Theme of CSES Module 3 [15 minutes]
Bernhard Wessels, CSES and WZB, Berlin
- The Substantive Theme of CSES Module 4 [15 minutes]
Goran Čular, CSES and WZB, Berlin

12:00 – 13:30

- Group lunch, catered lunch at the meeting site

13:30 – 17:00

- Country-specific overviews of electoral research [up to 15 minutes per person]
Individual substantive interests in election studies
Local interest and capacity in election studies and surveys
Information about election studies conducted in the past, or being planned

Bosnia and Herzegovina Republika Srpska	Mr. Srđan Puhalo, Banja Luka
Bulgaria	Alina Dobрева, TNS Gallup, Bulgaria
Macedonia	Zhidas Daskalovski, University of Kliment Ohridski, Bitola
Montenegro	Miloš Bešić, Faculty of Political Science, Belgrade University Olivera Komar, Faculty of Political Science, University of Montenegro
Serbia	Prof. Dragomir Pantić, IDN, Belgrade Zoran Pavlović, Department of Psychology, Belgrade University Bojan Todosijević, IDN, Belgrade
Albania	Altin Ilirjani, Blendi Çeka
Croatia	Goran Čular, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb
Greece	Prof. Theodore Chadjipadelis, Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki
Slovenia	Prof. Janez Štebe, dr Simona Kustec-Lipicer, University of Ljubljana
Kosovo	Leon Malazogu, Priština

18:30-

- Group dinner, at a local restaurant

Sunday April 22, 2012

09:00 – 12:30

- Discussion sessions: Supporting Election Studies and CSES collaboration in the Balkans

The following is a list of themes, discussion of which may be helpful in developing and coordinating electoral research in the Balkan countries. The list can be elaborated and adjusted according to the interests of the participants.

1. How to encourage locally-based election studies in the Balkan countries, and related challenges
2. Possible collaborations between CSES and post-election surveys in the Balkans
3. Coordination and funding strategies; Possible coordinated grant application
4. Methodological issues: Improving survey methodology; data archiving; public access to data; training in the analysis of comparative survey data.

Facilitators:

Goran Čular, CSES and University of Zagreb, Croatia

David Howell, CSES

Bernhard Wessels, CSES and WZB, Berlin

12:30 – 13:00

- Wrap-up session and action items from here
David Howell, CSES

13:00 – 14:30

- Catered lunch at the conference site

PARTICIPANTS

CSES

- David Howell, CSES and the University of Michigan, United States
- Bernhard Wessels, CSES Planning Committee, CSES Collaborator, and WZB, Berlin
- Goran Čular, CSES Planning Committee, CSES Collaborator, and University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Bojan Todosijević, CSES and IDN, Serbia

Albania

- Altin Ilirjani
- Blendi Çeka

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Republika Srpska

- Srđan Puhalo, Banja Luka College of Communications

Bulgaria

- Alina Dobreva, TNS Gallup, Bulgaria

Croatia

- Goran Čular, CSES Planning Committee, CSES Collaborator, and University of Zagreb

Greece

- Theodore Chadjipadelis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Macedonia

- Zhidas Daskalovski, University of Kliment Ohridski, Bitola

Montenegro

- Miloš Bešić, Belgrade University
- Olivera Komar, University of Montenegro

Serbia

- Dragomir Pantić, IDN
- Ognjen Pribičević, IDN & FPN, Belgrade
- Zoran Pavlović, Belgrade University
- Bojan Todosijević, IDN, Belgrade

Slovenia

- Janez Štebe, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- Simona Kustec-Lipicer, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

Kosovo

- Leon Malazogu, Priština