

About the Authors

Riada Asimovic Akyol is Strategic Initiatives Editor at *New Lines*, a magazine which started in October 2020 as an initiative of the New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy. She is a Bosnian journalist based in Washington DC and the creator and host of the audio and video podcast 'Dignified Resilience'. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, Foreign Policy, Al-Jazeera, Al-Monitor and The Nation. Her work focuses on politics, religion and gender. e-mail: raakyol@newlinesmag.com.

Blerta Avdia PhD is Lecturer in the Department of Tourism Management in the Faculty of Economics at 'Logos' University College, Tirana. She graduated in Geography at the University of Tirana, studying for her doctorate in the assessment and management of the natural and human resources of Lume-Gora (Kosovo) and their sustainable development at the same institution. She has long experience as a teaching coach and as a contributor to national and international scientific publications. e-mail: avdiablerta@gmail.com.

Anisa Balla MSc is Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Management at the Faculty of Economics of 'Logos' University College, Tirana and a PhD candidate since the start of 2022 in the Department of Economic Sciences of the University of 'Aleksander Moisiu' in Durrës, Albania. She has participated in workshops, national and international training events on modern teaching methods throughout her working life. e-mail: anisa.balla@yahoo.com.

Jens Becker PhD heads the doctoral funding department of Hans-Böckler-Stiftung. He mainly publishes on the history of the European labour and trade union movement and on eastern and south-eastern Europe. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *SEER Journal of Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe*. e-mail: jens.becker@boeckler.de.

Georg Blokus is the Director and Head of Organising education at the Berlin Hub of European Alternatives, which works to works to promote democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation state and to imagine, demand and enact alternatives for a viable future for Europe. A psychologist by training, he is a political organiser, educator and activist within progressive grassroots movements, trade unions and civil society organisations. e-mail: g.blokus@euroalter.com.

Ela Golemi PhD is Dean of the Faculty of Integrated Studies with Practice at the University 'Aleksandër Moisiu', Durrës, Albania, and Professor of Macroeconomics and International Economics. Her research interests focus mainly on the issues related to the stability of the financial system and the regional strategies of the western Balkans for integration in the European Union. e-mail: elagolemi@uamd.edu.al.

Ermira Kalaj is Professor of Public Economics at the University of Shkodra. She received her PhD in ‘Economics and Management’ from the University of Trento, Italy and is a holder of a CERGE-EI Foundation Teaching Fellows Career Integration Fellowship. Her research interests include public sector economics; the effects of immigration; income distribution; and econometric methods for programme and policy evaluation. e-mail: ermira.kalaj@unishk.edu.al.

Ina Kulić was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is a scholarship holder of the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung. She is working on her doctorate at the Sigmund-Freud-Institut in Frankfurt, where she conducts research from a socio-psychological perspective among refugee families from the former Yugoslavia on the cross-generational transmission of trauma effects following forced migration. e-mail: kulic@sigmund-freud-institut.de.

Aleksandra Lakić is a social scientist with a background in international relations. She received her master’s at the Humboldt-University of Berlin in migration, integration and asylum politics in the EU and Germany. Aleksandra is research coordinator at CENTAR, the Public Policy Research Center, in Belgrade where she works on the ‘future of work’ programme dealing with labour dimensions of the platform economy in Serbia, and is also a member of zajednicko.org.

Flora Merko is Professor of Economics at the University ‘Aleksandër Moisiu’, Durrës, Albania, where she is Head of Economics and a member of the Academic Senate. She received her PhD in ‘Economy and Agribusiness’ in 2008. Her research interests are focused on good governance, environmental economics, labour market dynamics, sustainable economic growth, regional development, etc. e-mail: flo-ramerko@uamd.edu.al.

Niccolo Milanese is director of European Alternatives, the Berlin-based organisation which works to promote democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation state and to imagine, demand and enact alternatives for a viable future for Europe, and a Europe’s Future Fellow at IWM (Institute for Human Sciences) in Vienna. He has been involved in the founding of numerous political and cultural organisations, magazines and initiatives on several sides of the Mediterranean. e-mail: n.milanese@euroalter.com.

Madlen Nikolova is an ESRC-funded PhD candidate in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield, UK. Her interests are related to the production of governmental expertise, policy transfers and the history of neoliberalism. She obtained her first degree at the University of Sofia before continuing her education at the Central European University and the University of Sheffield. e-mail: minikolova1@sheffield.ac.uk.

Tanja Pavlov PhD is Director of the Centre for Migration and Deputy Director of the NGO Group 484 in Belgrade. She earned her first degree at the University of Rijeka, Croatia, before continuing her studies in psychology and philosophy at the University of Belgrade, where her PhD was in the development and empirical verification of an integral model of migration decision making.

Lubomira Popova is a recently graduated PhD student from the department of European Studies in Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'. Her PhD research is dedicated to the specificities of Bulgaria's preparation for EU membership. The focus of her work is the dynamic and agency-driven character of the enlargement interaction. Her research interests include post-communist transformation in central and eastern Europe, preparation for EU membership and EU enlargement policy. e-mail: l_popova@ff.uni-sofia.bg.

Qerim Qerimi is Professor at the University of Prishtina and Visiting Professor and member of the Law and Development Research Group at the University of Antwerp. He is a current member of the Council of Europe's European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and vice chair of its sub-committee on the rule of law. His expertise, research activities and publications have addressed European integration processes and policies including conditionality, rule of law and capacity building in countries in transition with an emphasis on south-eastern Europe. e-mail: qerim.qerimi@uni-pr.edu.

Aleksandra Savanović is an independent researcher, author, editor and writer. She is a member of the Belgrade-based zajednicko.org, a research collective which explores post-capitalist economic paradigms as well as contemporary transformations of labour, state and citizenship. Her first novel *Deseti život (Life No. 10)* was published in 2018 and was shortlisted for the annual NIN award, the most prestigious literary award in Serbia.

Peter Scherrer is a freelance journalist and photographer based in Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany. He is the founding editor of the *SEER Journal* and a current member of the Editorial Board. Formerly Deputy General-Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation, Peter has a lifelong affiliation with the aims and values of the trade union movement and a keen belief in social dialogue; and shares a deep affection for the people and country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. e-mail: peter-scherrer@gmx.de.