

The Western Balkans in the European Union: Perspectives of a region in Europe?

Academic roundtable on the run-up to the Summit of Trieste on the Western Balkans

Monday, 26th June 2017, 14h00-16h00
MIB Trieste School of Management,
Palazzo Ferdinando, Via Carlo De Marchesetti, 2, Trieste

In 2014, in the wake of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, the Federal Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, initiated an intergovernmental process with the countries of the Western Balkans (the so-called **Berlin Process**). Its aim is to improve cooperation throughout the region, put “fundamentals first”, and thereby reinvigorate European integration. The first conference, organised in Berlin, was followed by a second one in Vienna in 2015 and a third one in Paris in 2016. A fourth conference will be convened by Italy in 2017, before the process expectedly ends one year later, in 2018, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. In order to encourage a European dialogue amongst think tanks and academic institutions on the Western Balkans and their European perspective, the CIFE, CFA, IAI, together with other institutions, has organised an Academic Roundtable in the run-up to the next intergovernmental conference on the Western Balkans hosted by Italy in July 2017.

Hosted by the **MIB Trieste School of Management**, the Roundtable will convene a number of European experts working on EU integration and the Western Balkans to reflect on the challenges bedevilling the EU’s enlargement policy –once deemed the EU’s most successful foreign policy- and the contribution research can make to address these.

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Welcome

Vladimir Nanut, Dean *MIB Trieste School of Management, Trieste*

Chair:

Tobias Flessenkemper, *Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE), Nice/Berlin*

Panelists:

Eleonora Poli, *Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome*

Florent Marciacq, *Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (CFA), Vienna*

Luisa Chiodi, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso (OBC), Rovereto*

Vedran Dzihic, *Österreichische Institut für internationale Politik (OIIP), Vienna*

Dusan Reljic, *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Brussels*

Conclusive Remarks

Stefano Pilotto, *MIB Trieste School of Management, Trieste*