



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ & ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ
HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY

ANNUAL REPORT
Stavros Costopoulos Research Fellowship
2019 - 2020

Dr. Ioannis Armakolas
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Report of activities of Dr Ioannis Armakolas

Stavros Costopoulos Research Fellow 2019 – 2020

Dr. Ioannis Armakolas, Assistant professor at the University of Macedonia, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, continued in his role as Stavros Costopoulos Fellow. Within this framework, he continued this year in his twin role at ELIAMEP as **Head of the South-East Europe Programme** and **Editor in Chief of the scholarly journal 'Southeast European and Black Sea Studies'**, which is published by the distinguished publishing house "Taylor & Francis Group UK (Routledge)" in conjunction with ELIAMEP.

Research Activities:

In his capacity as Head of the South-East Europe Programme of ELIAMEP, Dr. Armakolas continued the design, coordination and implementation of all research and public activities regarding the study of the Balkan region.

In particular, Dr. Armakolas coordinated the preparation and had the overall responsibility for the submission and follow-up on the implementation of five applications for research funding, on behalf of the South-East Europe Programme. The majority of the applications were prepared with partners from other countries and were submitted for funding to the European Commission and other donors.

During the same period, Dr. Armakolas was responsible for the management and implementation of the following five research projects:

- "Deliberating socio – economic impact of EU Integration – Albanian case and regional experiences", funded by the EC (ongoing)
- "Migration, Integration and Governance Research Center (MIGREC)", funded by EU H2020 (ongoing)
- "Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism through Community Resilience in the Balkans and the MENA (PAVE)", funded by EU H2020 (ongoing)
- "Confidence Building Measures Between North Macedonia and Greece", funded by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (completed)
- "Greece and Albania: Revisiting a tense relationship", funded by the Open Society Foundation for Albania (completed).

Events Participation and Public Activities:

Dr. Ioannis Armakolas organized 14 both public and closed events in Greece as well as in other European countries. Also, he co-hosted and/or co-organized several public activities for the presentation of research project findings and launch of new reports. Specifically, Dr. Armakolas:

- 5 September: participated as a guest speaker in the "26th #Eurotalk Educational Debate Session" organized by the think tank Eurothink – Center for European Strategies, in Skopje, North Macedonia.

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- 6 September: co-hosted the “Confidence Building Measures Between North Macedonia and Greece” project kickoff event, co-organized by ELIAMEP and Analytica think tank in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- 16 September: delivered a keynote speech at the “Balkan Donors Forum 2 Agenda”, organized by the Open Society Foundations, in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- 18 September: participated in the launch of the publication and panel discussion about “Understanding Contemporary Kosovo”, organized by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society in Pristina, Kosovo.
- 23 September: participated in the “11th International Symposium on Czech Foreign Policy: Fostering Multilateralism” co-organized by the Institute of International Relations of Prague, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic in Prague, Czech Republic.
- 26 September: spoke at the “Athens – Skopje Dialogue Programme: Building Bridges through Media”, organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- 1 October: co-hosted the closed door round table entitled “Greek – Albanian Relations at a Turning Point”, co-organized by ELIAMEP and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Athens, Greece.
- 29 - 31 October: attended the “Tirana Connectivity Forum”, organized by the Cooperation and Development Institute in Tirana, Albania.
- 11 November: chaired the panel on “The Price of Non – Enlargement” at the “Western Balkans Strategy Group” organized by the European Council on Foreign Relations in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- 20 November: participated in the policy dialogue entitled “Stuck in Limbo? The Future of the Belgrade – Pristina Dialogue” co – organized by the European Policy Center and the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society in Brussels, Belgium.
- 22 of November: spoke about “The Berlin Process and the Regional Cooperation” at the fourth round of the “European Integration School” in Tirana, Albania.
- 16 December: co-hosted the launch of the report entitled “Cooperation in Education, Culture and Civil Society after the Prespa Agreement. How to move forward?”, co-organized by ELIAMEP, the Analytica think tank and the Swedish Embassy in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- 18 December: co-hosted the launch of the report entitled “Cooperation in Education, Culture and Civil Society after the Prespa Agreement. How to move forward?” co – organized by ELIAMEP, the Analytica think tank and the Swedish Embassy in Athens, Greece.
- 30 January: participated in the Tirana Economic Forum, specifically in the panel about the definition of the role of Albania in the shifting region of the Western Balkans.

As of April 2020, the Southeast Europe Programme at ELIAMEP is operating the Twitter account @see_eliamep. The SEE Programme accounts both on Facebook and on Twitter target to improving the promotion of its events and activities, as well as to establish direct communication with the wider public.

The Southeast European and Black Sea Studies Journal:

Regarding the journal “Southeast European and Black Sea Studies”, Dr. Ioannis Armakolas remained responsible for all academic and administrative affairs of the journal and coordinated the editorial process. During this period, a number of timely and insightful papers were published by the journal aiming to contribute to the better understanding and awareness related to EU politics and the EU enlargement process in the Western Balkans, as well as the latest political, economic, social and security developments in South-East Europe and the Black Sea region, including Greece, Russia, Cyprus, Turkey and Ukraine.

The journal’s impact factor for 2019 was 0.839, a number that reflects the journal’s influence on both academic as well as policy circles. During this period, the journal also published a special issue entitled: “Illiberal Politics in Southeast Europe”.

The journal remains one of the leading scholarly publications focusing on the specific geographical areas and one of the few prominent journals produced in partnership with an organization outside UK and the US.

List of publications by Dr. Ioannis Armakolas:

Ioannis Armakolas, Ljupcho Petkovski and Alexandra Voudouri, “*The Prespa Agreement one year after ratification: from enthusiasm to uncertainty?*”, Eurothink – Center for European strategies, 2020

Ioannis Armakolas and James Ker – Lindsay (eds.) “*The politics of recognition and engagement - EU member states relations with Kosovo*”, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020

James Ker – Lindsay, Ioannis Armakolas, Rosa Balfour and Corina Stratulat (eds.) “*The national politics of EU enlargement in the Western Balkans*”, Routledge, 2019