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HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY

ANNUAL REPORT
Stavros Costopoulos Research Fellowship
2018 - 2019

Dr. Ioannis Armakolas
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**Report of Activities of Dr. Ioannis Armakolas
Stavros Costopoulos Research Fellow 2018-19**

Dr. Ioannis Armakolas, Assistant Professor at the University of Macedonia at the 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 in ELIAMEP as **Head of the South-East Europe Programme** and as **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 the research as well the public activities regarding the study of the Balkans region.

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

Additionally, 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", EU-funding (ongoing)
- "Migration, Integration and Governance Research Centre" (MICREG), EU H2020 funding– (ongoing)
- "Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism through Community Resilience in the Balkans and the MENA" (PAVE), EU H2020-funding (ongoing)
- "Confidence Building Measures between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece - Bilateral cooperation between Athens and Skopje in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs", funded by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (completed)
- "Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) - Balkans Dialogue" (completed)

Events Participation and Public Activities:

Among others, Dr. Ioannis Armakolas also organised several public and closed events in Greece as well as in other European countries. Also, he has co-hosted and/or co-organised a number of public activities for the presentation of research project findings and launch of new reports.

Specifically, Dr. Armakolas co-organised with the "Analytica" think-tank and the Embassy of Sweden in Skopje the presentation of the joint research entitled "GREECE AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - Bilateral cooperation between Athens and Skopje in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs (Police): An assessment of the state of play before and after the adoption of the Confidence Building Measures (2015)" on the 11th of December, 2018 in Skopje.

On the 17th of December, Dr. Armakolas as Head of the South-East Europe Programme organized and hosted a similar presentation at ELIAMEP's offices along with the "Analytica" think tank and the Embassy of Sweden in Athens.

Moreover, he has participated in the Bucharest Security Conference on the 29th of September where he spoke about the referendum on the Prespa Agreement and the European future of the Western Balkans at the panel “Consolidating Resilience in the Western Balkans”.

Dr. Armakolas was among the co-organizers on a closed workshop entitled “Dialogue on harmonization of neighborly relations”, organized in Athens and co-hosted by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and ELIAMEP.

Dr. Armakolas was also one of the co-organizers of a closed workshop that was co-hosted by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and ELIAMEP. The title of the workshop was “Towards Europe: Greece and the Western Balkans”, held in Athens.

Furthermore, Dr. Armakolas spoke on the event entitled “The truth about the Macedonian Issue” which was organised by the party “To Potami” on the 21st of January 2019 at Zappeion.

On the 27th of February 2019, Dr. Armakolas discussed about North Macedonia’s European integration challenges after the ratification of the Prespa Agreement at the Atlantic Council in Washington DC.

On the 6th of March 2019, Dr. Armakolas participated in an event organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EU Office in Brussels regarding the relations between Greece and North Macedonia in the aftermath of the Prespa Agreement.

Dr. Armakolas also participated in the panel discussion entitled “The Western Balkans beyond resolution of bilateral issues” which was organized by Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG) and the Institute for Democracy ‘Societas Civilis’ (IDSCS) in Skopje on the 29th of March 2019. Keynote speaker was H.E. Mr Nikola Dimitrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia.

On the 26th of April 2019, Dr. Armakolas participated in the conference “Western Balkans at the crossroads: Assessing the influence of external actors”. The conference was co-organized by Prague Security Studies Institute and the Institute of International Relations under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry’s Department of Foreign Policy Analysis and Planning.

Further, on the 27th of April 2019, Dr. Armakolas participated in the event “Solving the Balkan disputes: the case of North Macedonia” which was organized by the European External Action Service – EEAS, the Open Society European Policy Institute and the 1001 valises, in Brussels. The event was part of the Balkan Trafik festival.

Finally, on the 13th of May 2019, Dr. Armakolas participated in the “Think Tank Forum - Reinforcing the European Integration of the Western Balkans – Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future” in Skopje. The event was organized by the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” in cooperation with the Centre for Eastern Studies and the Embassy of Republic of Poland to Skopje.

Overall, over the period in question, Dr. Armakolas presented his research activities at conferences and workshops in more than 20 events in Athens, Thessaloniki, Prague, Brussels, Washington DC, Bucharest, Belgrade, Pristina, Warsaw and Skopje, regarding various aspects of the Greek foreign policy, especially the Prespa Agreement which monopolized the interest in Greece, the Balkan region and Europe in the previous months, as well as politics and security of the Western Balkans.

Dr. Armakolas, as one of the top experts in the country regarding the Balkans, appeared in various television programmes and radio shows in Greece and abroad discussing the Prespa Agreement, the

issues that were related with the signing of the historic agreement, as well as other issues related to the Balkans.

He also published a number of articles and opinion papers in all major Greek newspapers such as Kathimerini, TA NEA, Ethnos, To Vima as well as in various international media, such as the Bloomberg News Agency, Frankfurter Allgemeine and Al Jazeera.

The Southeast European and Black Sea Studies Journal:

Regarding the journal “Southeast European and Black Sea Studies”, Dr. Armakolas continued being 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 informing regarding the politics of the EU 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 also published two special issues: “The external governance of state-building in post-conflict Kosovo” and “Islam, Populism, Regime Change in Turkey: Making and re-Making the AKP”.

The journal’s impact factor for 2017 increased to 1.076, reflecting the growing influence of the journal in both academic as well as policy circles. 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 (2018): *Kosovo’s Status Consolidation: Lessons from the Berlin Process* in David Philipps, Lulzim Peci (eds): *Threats and Challenges to Kosovo’s Sovereignty*, Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University in co-operation with the Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED), November 2018, pp. 151 (collective volume).

Ioannis Armakolas, Bojan Miricik (2018): *Perspectives on the Skopje-Athens Dialogue* in Jasmin Mujanović, Alida Vračić (eds): *Political Trends & Dynamics - Bilateral Disputes in Southeast Europe*, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Dialogue Southeast Europe Project 2016-2018, October 2018, pp. 5 (issue of regional publication).

Ioannis Armakolas, Yorgos Christidis, Panagiotis Paschalidis (2018): *GREECE AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - Bilateral cooperation between Athens and Skopje in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs (Police): An assessment of the state of play before and after the adoption of the Confidence Building Measures (2015)*, South-East Europe Programme - Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) in co-operation with the Analytica think tank.

Ioannis Armakolas, Ljupcho Petkovski, (2019): *Prespa Blueprint* Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

Ioannis Armakolas, Igor Bandovic, Dimitar Bechev, Bodo Weber, (2019): *North Macedonia: What’s Next?* - Srdjan Cvijic (ed.), Open Society European Policy Institute.

Ioannis Armakolas, Agon Demjaha, Arolda Elbasani and Stephanie Schwander – Sievers (eds.), (2019): *Local and international determinants of Kosovo’s statehood* Kosovo Foundation for Open Society.