

The Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade  
The Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, „Ss. Cyril and Methodius“  
University in Skopje, and  
The Faculty of Law, University of Zenica  
announce the:

Call for the international scientific conference

## **The Impact of the Quality of Institutions on Sustainable Development**

The significant role of institutions in encouraging economic development is widely recognized and accepted by both science and public policy makers. Economies' development levels largely depend on the level of development, quality and efficiency of institutional arrangements. Inclusive institutions contribute to the rule of law, maximization of efficiency and social well-being, lead to higher rates of economic growth and represent a key factor of economic freedom. Research suggests that institutions and institutional mechanisms largely determine whether a country will be in the group of economically developed and underdeveloped countries. As early as 1776, Adam Smith pointed out that economic growth depends on production factors that are primarily based on technical and technological development and human capital, but also on no less important institutional factors, which imply the creation of an environment that will stimulate economic growth and development of a society.

Issues of democracy, institutions and their role in sustainable development are becoming increasingly important. The crises that occurred during the past decade, starting with the migrant crisis in 2015, through Brexit in 2016, the pandemic in 2019, the war in Ukraine in 2022 and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2023 contributed to this. The mentioned crises are characterized by the fact that they encourage each other and create a feeling of uncertainty both among individuals and collectively, and are therefore designated by the

term "polycrisis". It should be added that in 2024, 4.2 billion people will vote in over 70 elections around the world, which means that for the first time, more than half of the total population will have the opportunity to choose between different models of management and development, i.e. the bearers of those policies. The results of these elections can significantly impact further economic and social development followed by significant changes on the political, security and demographic levels.

The conference *The Influence of the Quality of Institutions on Sustainable Development* aims to consider the further directions of sustainable development and the role of institutions in the newly created circumstances when, in addition to the dangers due to climate change and pollution, other forms of crises occur. The issues would be considered multidisciplinary with the aim of better understanding the causes and finding effective solutions.

The conference would be divided into six sessions:

1) *The role of institutions in achieving the goals of economic development and environmental protection*

The first session would consider how institutions can contribute to the economic development of the country, while at the same time reducing the impact on the environment. Conducting an environmental policy that will not limit economic growth rates is a major challenge for economic policy makers around the world.

In particular, it would be considered how the quality of institutions affects the level of carbon dioxide emissions that are caused as a result of economic development. The impact of investments by development finance institutions on economic development would also be considered since their development goal is reflected in bridging the gap between state development aid and commercial investments and providing support in ensuring stable, sustainable and inclusive economic development.

2) *Green transition and institutions*

This session is dedicated to the green transition, which should be at the center of a new social contract that reconnects society and institutions. For the green transition process to be successfully implemented, a regulatory framework as well as developed institutions are necessary. The role of institutions in the transition process is multiple - they not only enable its implementation but also play an important role in ensuring respect for the principles of fairness and equality. The aim of this panel session is to start a discussion about the importance of institutions and to point out the mechanisms that would enable the

implementation of the green transition process fairly. Also, it will be analyzed how it can be achieved that institutions (especially public ones) function in coordination with a coherent, long-term goal of making the green agenda an important segment of national development strategies.

### *3) "Polycrises" in Europe and their impact on Western Balkans*

In this session, the impact of the "polycrisis" on the institutions and development of European countries will be considered. During the last 15 years, we have witnessed a series of crises starting from the financial crisis in 2008, through the migrant crisis in 2015, the pandemic in 2019, the war in Ukraine in 2022 and the war in the Middle East in 2023. They intertwine and lead to the creation of permanent uncertainty that affects institutions and the behavior of people. During the session, it will be analyzed how trust in institutions has fallen and how it can be restored.

### *4) Upgrading of governance through data-driven decision making and behavioural insights*

In this session, it would be discussed how to improve the efficiency of institutions in achieving the goals of sustainable development. A significant weakness of frequent changes of regulations in less developed countries is that there is no prior analysis of the effects of applying the regulations in force until then. This makes it impossible to determine which measures give the best results for the objectives. The session will present how it can be determined which measures will give the best results for the given goals, using a practical example. In the following, it will be presented how to improve the internal organization of decision-making and execution processes through the establishment of balanced relations between those who: 1) decide, 2) execute and 3) benefit. The session will also discuss modern methods of regulation and management that are increasingly used to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs). The reason is that SDGs imply costs in the present for benefits that are external and spread over a long period. To overcome this limitation, in developed countries, behavioral methods of influencing consumers are increasingly being used, which involves "nudging" toward the desired behavior.

## 5) *State capture*

The session is dedicated to the phenomenon of state capture. The orientation of institutions towards the satisfaction of the interests of a small group that is in a privileged position leads to suboptimal economic growth and increasing social stratification in society, including increasing poverty, while the long-term interests of society, which include the care of the environment, are sacrificed for the realization of projects that bring profit now and they pass the costs on to future generations. Within this unit, the questions of how this phenomenon occurs, what are its consequences and how to fight against this phenomenon will be considered. The effects of corruption that occur as a consequence of "state capture" on sustainable economic development and the economic cost of corruption will also be considered. The subject of discussion would be clientelism as an inevitable companion of corruption, as well as examples from the practice of how the provision of services by the state to citizens and companies function when institutions are "captured".

## 6) *Corruption and Development*

Corruption is widely recognized as a phenomenon with significant negative effects on both societies and economies that undermines achieving key social goals of non-discrimination, transparency, raising inequalities among people, poverty lower economic growth to name a few of them. Negative influence of corruption on investment and economic growth is marked as "sand the wheels". Moreover, corruption is recognized as a factor with higher impact on migrations from less developed countries towards more developed ones than the level of income.

However, some researchers argue that corruption may have a positive effect under the condition that governance is weak and institutions are performing poorly. In that case bribery or "grease the wheels" may be useful in overcoming constraints generated by inefficient bureaucracy that means that low quality governance and weak institutions may justify existence of corruption since poor performing and excessive bureaucracy limit investments and consequently economic growth.

## Important dates:

**Conference dates: May 23 - 24, 2024,**

**Conference venue:** Belgrade and online, **Hybrid format**

**Abstract submission:** deadline **April 26, 2024;**

Send to e-mail: [office.skupovi@idn.org.rs](mailto:office.skupovi@idn.org.rs) and, [conference@isppi.ukim.edu.mk](mailto:conference@isppi.ukim.edu.mk)

**Paper submission:** deadline **July 1, 2024**

Publication and copyrights:

All full paper submissions will be peer-reviewed and evaluated based on originality, technical and/or research depth, accuracy, and relevance to conference themes and topics and published in the Conference Proceedings which would be provided as an electronic copy.

The **abstract** should contain the following components:

Author name and title: Times New Roman; bold; 14 pt; single-line spacing; alignment left.

Affiliation and e-mail address: Times New Roman; Italic; 12 pt; single-line spacing; alignment left.

Article title: Times New Roman; 14 pt; bold; alignment centered; single-line spacing; All Caps.

Abstract text: up to 300 words; Times New Roman; 12 pt; single-line spacing; justify.

Keywords: 5-7 keywords; Times New Roman; Italic, 12 pt; single-line spacing; justify.

We encourage you to invite colleagues to participate at the Conference and submit original research for the conference Call for Papers.

## **Programme Committee**

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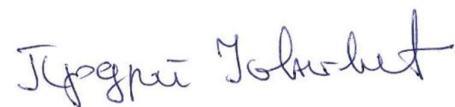
Dear Authors,

We have the honor to invite you to participate at the international scientific conference entitled: **The Impact of the Quality of Institutions on Sustainable Development** organized by the Institute of Social Sciences Belgrade (Center for Economic Research), Serbia, Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” University in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia, and Faculty of Law, University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, that will take place in a hybrid format on May 23-24, 2024.

We appreciate your interest in our Conference and looking forward to future cooperation and your submission.

Please forward this information to your colleagues.

Belgrade, March 15, 2024.



**President of the Programme Committee**  
*Assoc. prof. Predrag Jovanović, PhD*  
*Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia*  
*Head of the Center for Economic Research*