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The Next Step in Croatia

Objective Working out country-specific, ownership-oriented recommendations, and country-focused projects

Outputs - Seminar: Zagreb, 25 February 2005
- Book: Zagreb, March 2005

Leaders Srdjan Dvornik & Christophe Solioz

Venue 25 February 2005
> Journalists' Association (Novinarski dom),
> Perkovecva 2, Zagreb

Authors

Prof. Zarko Puhovski, Faculty of Philosophy,
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Shifting interpretation of transitional sovereignty

Prof. Srdjan Vrcan, Professeur of sociology, Faculty of Law,
University of Split
Contemporary disputes over civil society

Prof. Ivo Bicanic, Faculty of Economics, University of
Zagreb; Department of economics, Central European
University, Budapest
*The political economy and policy ownership of Croatia's
economic growth, transformation and integration*

Srdjan Dvornik, Foundation Heinrich Böll & Helsinki
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Politics from below?

Framework

External influence is a specific characteristic of the transition and democratization process in the countries of the Balkans. In spite of prominent external intervention, the countries of the region are still somewhere halfway between transition and democratic consolidation.

The effectiveness of the intervention of foreign agencies must be considered not only from a point of view of financial effectiveness, but also as to concepts and strategies. A considerable amount of literature about the role of local ownership and capacity building assume in the transition process has been written from the 1980s onwards; so the question arises why foreign intervention in the Balkans has not produced greater results. First, many external strategies were not adapted to the Balkans' conditions, and second, local import strategies are also questionable.

On the one hand there is a necessity for the international actors to learn from the Balkan experience; on the other hand, there is a need for domestic actors to develop effective import strategies as well as sustainable structures. Such a situation necessitates the study of the interaction of local and foreign actors, which is an intention of this project.

Local experts will discuss the complex interaction between internal and international processes and the issue of ownership concerning transition and democratization in the Balkans with a view to produce well adapted, ownership oriented recommendations. The main geographical area of work is Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.