



Policy Analysis and Investigative Journalism in Safeguarding Democracies

Conference within GONG's Regional School of Policy Analysis

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

in co-operation with the Department of Sociology, University of Zadar

Venue: *Impact Center, Put stanova bb, Zadar*

working language: English only

The conference, as part of GONG's Regional School on Policy Analysis, will host speakers from the fields of sociology, policy analysis and investigative journalism, providing macro-, meso- and micro-perspectives respectively. The focus will be on how what they do safeguards the key democratic values and the protection of human rights in practice and vis-à-vis institutional set-ups and policies created at national or supranational levels. More specifically, the speakers would focus on their research processes, and on linkages between their research and the institutional frameworks and policies followed through by advocacy and public engagement activities.

Conference Program

10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome speeches**

Representative of Department of Sociology, University of Zadar
Jelena Berković, GONG Executive Director

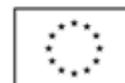
10:10 – 10:50 **Panel 1** – *The sociological perspective: trends in democratic deterioration and the roles of policy analysts and investigative journalists in shedding light on these processes* – moderated by Valerija Barada, Department of Sociology, University of Zadar

Panelists:

- **Mirko Petrić, Department of Sociology, University of Zadar, *Watchdogs in the iron cage of irrationality: investigative journalism and the dangers of new populism***
- **Sven Marčelić, Department of Sociology, University of Zadar, *Density of NGOs in Croatia: some economic and demographic factors***

10:50 – 11:20 Plenary discussion

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11:20 – 11:50 *Coffee break*

11:50 - 12:50 **Panel 2** – *The Role of Policy Analysis in Safeguarding Democracy* – moderated by Nives Miošić, GONG

Panelists:

- **Israel Butler, The European Liberties Platform, Brussels** – The effectiveness of institutional mechanisms protecting the rule of law in the EU?
- **Bulcsú Hunyadi, Political Capital, Hungary** - Russian political and cultural influence in Europe
- **Mark Worth, Blueprint for Free Speech and Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistleblower Protection** – *The creation of the Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistleblower Protection and Ending Food Irradiation campaign*

12:50 – 13:20 Plenary discussion

13:30 – 15:00 *Lunch*

15:00 – 16:30 **Panel 3** - *The Role of Investigative Journalism in Safeguarding Democracy* – moderated by Jelena Berković, GONG

Panelists:

- **Dragana Pećo - KRIK, Serbia**, member of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project
- **Erik Wesselius, Corporate Europe Observatory, Brussels** - exposing corporate lobbying in the EU
- **Paulina Janusz**, journalist from Poland, reporting from former Yugoslav countries

16:30 – 17.00 Conference conclusions – moderated by Valerija Barada, Department of Sociology, University of Zadar

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