



Wilton Park

Programme

Good governance and effective citizen engagement

Wednesday 15 – Friday 17 November 2017 | WP1579

Held in Serbia

The purpose of this event is to further support an open and participative facts-based policy discussion, contributing to open, accountable and participatory governance in Serbia. Citizens' right to vote and to voice their opinion, are cornerstones of a democratic society. Civic engagement is the basic precondition for an open and accountable government, stable and efficient democratic institutions and good representation of community interests in the policy-making process. The sustainability of citizen-to-institution interaction is possible when good governance principles are well placed and embedded.

This event will look at how to include different perspectives and opinions into the policy process, with the aim of increasing public influence on policy development and implementation.

The event will be divided into two parts:

- A one day policy discussion of around 50 people, working to identify tools and approaches to support good governance and effective citizen engagement, and suggest recommendations for future action;
- A larger half-day conference immediately following, which will allow the conclusions of the former to be debated, and further inputs made.

In cooperation with the Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability and with support from UK aid and the British Embassy Belgrade.

In cooperation with:



**CENTER FOR RESEARCH
TRANSPARENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

With support from:



British Embassy
Belgrade



Wednesday 15 November

1630	Participants arrive and registration
1700-1800	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>Opening remarks by the event partners and a representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and Government of Serbia. Following this, participants will have the opportunity to input their views on key challenges and solutions for progress on open, participatory democracy in Serbia, as well as on their expectations for the next day's discussions. These inputs, gathered via electronic polling software, will then be collated and fed in to subsequent event discussions.</p> <p>Robert Grant Programme Director, Wilton Park</p> <p>Denis Keefe British Ambassador to Serbia, British Embassy, Belgrade</p> <p>Vukosava Crnjanski Founder and Director, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Belgrade</p>
1800	Reception drinks and canapes

Thursday 16 November

0900-0930	Arrival and registration
0930-1100	<p>1. Challenges and perspectives of democracy in terms of good governance and citizen engagement</p> <p>What is the general understanding of the current situation? Where does the performance of public institutions fit in? What impact does the context of the European integration process have? What are the democratisation achievements so far?</p> <p>Vukosava Crnjanski Founder and Director, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Belgrade</p> <p>Igor Bandović Senior Programme Manager, European Fund for the Balkans, Belgrade</p> <p>Noora Hayrinen Head of the Political Section at the EU Delegation to Serbia, European Commission, Belgrade</p>
1100-1145	Photograph followed by tea/coffee
1145-1300	<p>2. Institutional feasibility for good governance and citizen engagement</p> <p>Presentation of policy research carried out by CRTA and their interim conclusions. The presentation will focus on research findings related to institutional feasibility for good governance and citizen engagement in three case studies: elections and the election process; public consultation; and civic initiative.</p> <p>Pavle Dimitrijević Head of Legal Department, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Belgrade</p> <p>Tamara Branković Researcher, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Belgrade</p>

Jovana Marović

Executive Director, Politikon Network, Podgorica

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1600

3. Working groups: institutional feasibility for good governance and citizen engagement

How to protect the integrity, accountability and transparency of the electoral process? What is the role of Parliament and Government in supporting civic engagement?

Groups will address aspects of these questions in the following formats:

Group 1: The role of the public administration in election process: Republic Electoral Commission, Serbia

Chair: Dejan Djokic

Expert in election law, Belgrade

Commentator: Zlatko Vujović

President of the Governing Board, Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), Podgorica

Group 2: The role of independent bodies in the election process: Anti-Corruption Agency

Chair: Zlatko Minić

Researcher, Transparency Serbia, Belgrade

Commentator: Duncan Hames

Director of Policy, UK Advocacy and Research, Transparency International, London

Group 3: The role of independent bodies in the election process: Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media

Chair: Maja Divac

Executive Director, PG Mreža (Mreza Production Group), Belgrade

Commentator: Patricia Meléndez

Civic Space Initiative Lead, ARTICLE 19, London

Group 4: Civic engagement in policy-making: public consultations

Key-Note: Žarko Stepanović

Acting Director, Office for Cooperation with Civil Society, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade

Chair: Olivera Vukovic

Executive Director, SeConS Development Initiative Group, Belgrade

Commentator: Ana Marjanović Rudan

Consultant, Praxis Development, Belgrade

Group 5: Civic initiative as an instrument of direct democracy: the role of Parliament and Government

Key-Note: Gordana Čomić

Deputy Speaker, MP of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade

Chair: Mladen Jovanović

Chairman, National Coalition for Decentralisation, Niš

Commentator: Dušan Spasojević

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1730

4. Feedback on the plenary and conclusions

Feedback from the five working groups by the chairs of each.

Conclusions from the previous sessions and policy recommendations generated.

1730-1745

5. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey.

1830

Reception drinks

1900

Dinner

Friday 17 November

0900-1000

Arrival and registration

1000-1100

6. Ministerial conversation

Brief introduction of key messages from the previous day's discussions, followed by a key note address on the topic of the conference by the Prime Minister and Minister with additional remarks by Baroness Frances D'Souza and Ambassador Denis Keefe. The floor will then be opened for questions to the speakers.

Ana Brnabić

Prime Minister of Serbia, Belgrade

Frances D'Souza

House of Lords, London

Denis Keefe

British Ambassador to Serbia, British Embassy, Belgrade

Moderators:

Vukosava Crnjanski

Founder and Director, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Belgrade

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1300

7. Full conclusions and recommendations on good governance and citizen engagement

Further analysis and discussion of full conclusions and recommendations in a plenary format. Concluding remarks with parliamentary representation from the UK and Serbia.

Gordana Čomić

Deputy Speaker, MP of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade

Anthony Smith

Chief Executive Officer, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, London

Moderators:

Vukosava Crnjanski

Founder and Director, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Belgrade

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park

1300

Flying buffet

