

Biographies of the panelists

Denis Džidić

Denis Džidić is the Executive Director and Editor of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIRN BiH). Denis has worked as a journalist since 2006, starting his career in Oslobodjenje, a daily newspaper from BiH. He has also worked for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting in Sarajevo and The Hague, reporting on transitional justice issues and covering war crimes trials related to the 1992-1995 conflict in BiH. He joined BIRN in August 2008 and has worked as a journalist, deputy editor and chief editor for BIRN BiH before being named Executive Director and Editor in October 2019.

Sasha Seregina (Vusurovic)

Sasha Seregina (Vusurovic) graduated from the Samara State University of Architecture Civil Engineering in Russia and obtained a master degree at the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Belgrade, Serbia. Besides being engaged in architecture and design industry after her studies, and after moving to Serbia in 2010, she also profiled herself in due diligence research and analysis with a focus on Russia and post-Soviet states, and held a position of a senior analyst in the international risk and research consultancy firm with an office in Belgrade. In 2016, she joined the organisational team of the Beldocs International Documentary Film Festival, and since 2019 she is also curator of the Beldocs Special festival program dedicated to a different human rights topic each year, and producer of the festival's various year-round activities. Since 24 February 2022, a co-founder of the anti-war activist group „Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians and Serbs together against war“ (RUBS), which organised more than 30 rallies, debates, cultural, humanitarian and other public events, as well as daily social media anti-propaganda work in Serbia.

Jovan Teokarević

Dr. Jovan Teokarević is professor of Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, Serbia (since 2002), and visiting professor at the College of Europe, Natolin Campus, Warsaw (since 2016). He also used to teach previously for many years about the Balkans at the NATO Defence College in Rome and at the Master Program of the University of Vienna. His research, published in 7 authored and 12 edited books, has focused on: post-communist transition, politics in the Balkans, EU and NATO enlargement and EU-Western Balkans relations. Before joining the University of Belgrade, he had worked for 20 years as research fellow of the Belgrade-based Institute for European Studies. He was also founder and Director of the Belgrade Centre for European Integration, Serbia's academic coordinator of the international master program in Southeast European Studies (done with the University of Graz), and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Open Society Foundation Serbia.

Edina Bećirević

Edina Bećirević is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies at the University of Sarajevo. She holds a PhD in Defense and Security from the University of Sarajevo. Additionally, she has a M.A. in Media and Communications from the London School of Economics and a M.A. in Political Science from the Central European University in Budapest.

Bećirević has participated in numerous international projects and has published many articles on the topics of international security, human rights, international law, and restorative justice.

Andrea Cascone

Andrea Cascone is Adriatic and Balkans Director, at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. He has +20 years' experience in foreign relations, government affairs and diplomacy, served in several embassies abroad with wide and diversified portfolios.

Francesco Martino

Francesco Martino is a Journalist at OBCT. He holds a degree in Media Studies from the University of Trieste. He worked in the field of international cooperation in Kosovo before becoming a journalist. He has been living and working in Sofia since 2005 and in Bulgaria he has collaborated with various Italian and international media providers. He speaks Bulgarian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovene and Macedonian. Based in Sofia, he has been working for Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso since 2006.

Anna Ferro

Anna Ferro is a senior researcher and international consultant with + 20 years of work experience on migration, diaspora engagement and development. She holds a PhD in European Local and Urban Studies, at Milano Bicocca University and she collaborates with CeSPI, Study Center in International Politics in Italy, since 2006. Among her research interests are: migration and development, the Eu migration and asylum system, the Balkan migratory route, the EU enlargement, climate change and migration in the Sahel.

Luisa Chiodi

Luisa Chiodi has been the director of Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa since 2006. She holds a PhD in Social and Political Science from the European University Institute of Fiesole (Florence) and a degree in Political Science from the University of Milan. From 2003 to 2008 she was lecturer for the chair of 'Eastern European studies' at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Bologna. She coordinated several research projects and is author of publications on civil society and transnational social dynamics.