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and Cooperation SDC

Impact on Building Research Excellence and Cooperation Networks in the Western Balkans

Regional Research Promotion Programme
in the Western Balkans (RRPP) 2008 – 2017



Content

| | |
|--|-----------|
| RRPP pillars and funding per country | 4 |
| Impact | 5 |
| 1. A more competitive, internationally present and visible research community in the Western Balkans has emerged | 5 |
| 2. Research capacities have been enhanced and first thematic regional research networks created | 6 |
| 3. First bridges between research and policymaking in individual countries have been created | 9 |
| 4. Brain circulation was enabled, younger and female researchers empowered and ethnic divisions reduced | 11 |
| RRPP Research Projects 2008 – 2017 | 14 |

Introduction

Since the beginning of its cooperation with Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 1990, Switzerland has been active in the field of research promotion. At the heart of this endeavour was the Scientific Cooperation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland (SCOPEs) programme. The countries of the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia – however, had been underrepresented in terms of both applications submitted and projects approved. Reforms in Western Balkan countries remained marked by difficult transition trajectories, including high levels of corruption, informality and weak institutions. The research sector remained neglected and marked by deficiencies that hindered international mobility and excellence, including insufficient – and sometimes a complete lack of – funding mechanisms; a lack of and inadequate research methods trainings; a lack of PhD programmes and adequate mentoring; low-quality research outputs; a lack of career development opportunities (including for those returning from abroad).

One of the core political objectives of the Swiss Strategy for the Western Balkans in 2005 was to support to the stabilisation and reform process in the Western Balkans. **The Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (RRPP)** was created in order to fill an existing gap in research funding within the region, complementary to the already existing efforts of Switzerland and other donor programmes in this sector. Regional cooperation in particular was emphasised, with the objective of improving regional integration, creating synergies and fostering knowledge management.

The RRPP was implemented over a period of ten years in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The programme promoted and enabled research-based cooperation among the new generation of social scientists and policymakers across the ethnically divided, post-conflict region. It focused on fostering and promoting social science research capacities relevant to social, economic and institutional reforms in the respective countries. Its main objective was to boost research capacities at the individual, institutional and systemic levels, while promoting research rigour, regional and international visibility and networking, as well as bridging the gap between research and policymaking.

The programme included institutions' and organisations' younger generation of researchers, while also working with senior professors and researchers, analysts, political advisors and decision makers. It was executed by the University of Fribourg and its implementation was supported by institutions and organisations from the Western Balkans acting as local coordination units, among which were public and private universities, as well as NGOs. The programme was fully funded by the Swiss agency for development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Regional ownership was the guiding principle of the RRPP's approach. Regional ownership was understood as more than just the technical transfer of research grants to local institutions able to implement and coordinate them. It was understood as a common spirit among members of an organically growing network who are convinced that their research is important for the future of their countries and the region as a whole and whose ambition, their careers aside, is to contribute to this future through excellent work.



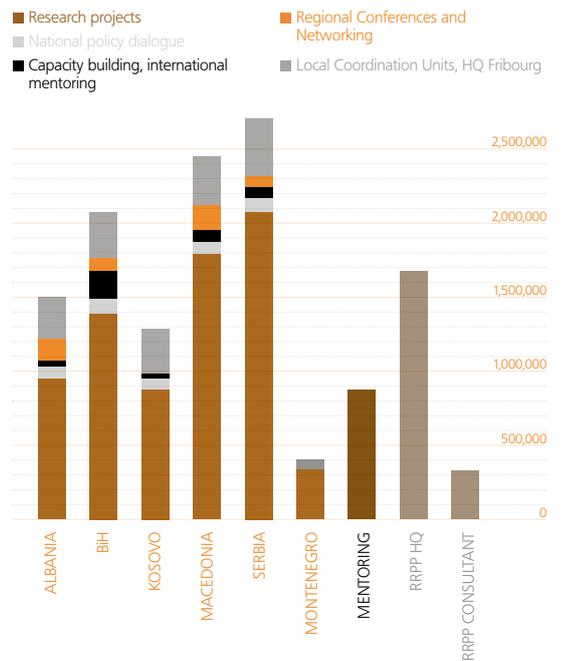
The following institutions from the Western Balkans served as the RRPP Local Coordination Units (LCUs) during the period 2013 – 2017:

Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), Tirana, Albania; Center for Social Research Analitika, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Centre for Political Courage (CPC), Pristina, Kosovo; Foundation Open Society – Macedonia, Skopje, Macedonia; Institute of Economic Sciences (IEN), Belgrade, Serbia

RRPP pillars and funding per country

Fostering and promoting **reforms-relevant research projects** in areas such as the rule of law and democracy, states, networks and informality, economic development and social change, diversity management, constituted the main pillar of the RRPP from the very beginning. Other important components were **international and regional networking, capacity building, international mentoring and National Policy Dialogues**. The country that was most successful in attracting RRPP funding was Serbia (2.7 million CHF), followed by Macedonia (2.4 million CHF), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 million CHF), Albania (1.5 million CHF), Kosovo (1.3 million CHF) and, finally, Montenegro (400,000 CHF). The following graphic shows the level of total spending, including Headquarters in Fribourg, RRPP Consultants and some 860,000 CHF that were invested in International Academic Mentoring.

RRPP FUNDING 2008 – 2017 (TOTAL CHF 14 MIO)

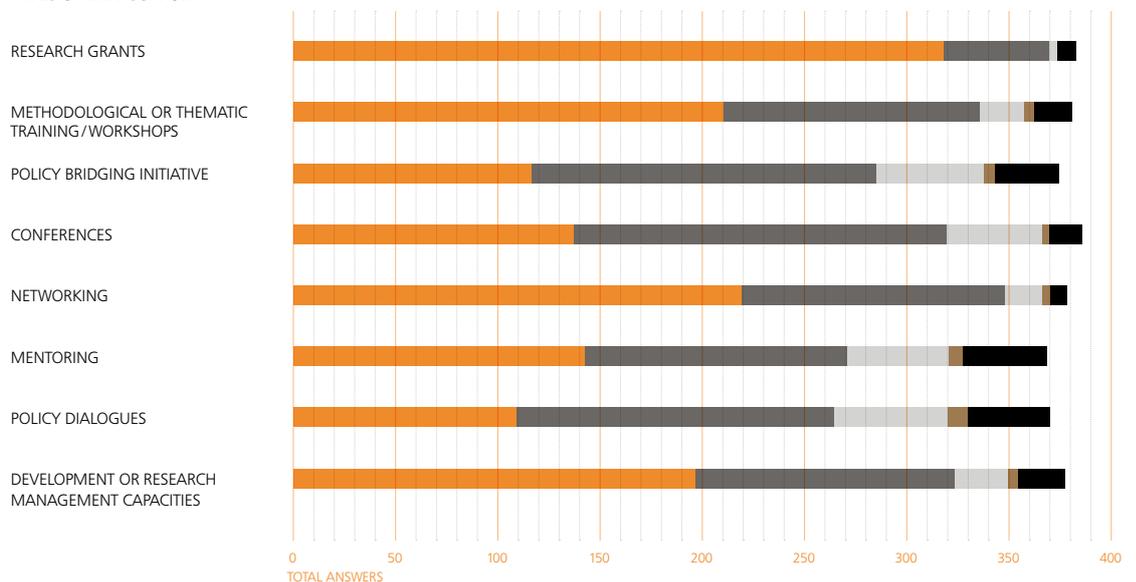


As shown in the chart below, the opportunities to get involved in **relevant research, networking across regional and international borders and capacity building** were highly appreciated and assessed as the most important components of the programme.

HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF RRPP SUPPORT?

■ Very important
 ■ Important
 ■ Neither important nor unimportant
 ■ Unimportant
 ■ I do not know

TYPES OF RRPP SUPPORT:



Impact

1. A more competitive, internationally present and visible research community in the Western Balkans has emerged

A major impact of the RRPP can be seen in its contribution to **research quality and cooperation** on many different levels. 89% of the survey participants from 2016 evaluated the cooperation and communication made possible by the programme as among its most beneficial components, after the provided research grants (97%).

Over **840 researchers were involved in the 91 research projects, of whom 510 were women (60%)**. When one includes participants at individual events who were not necessarily involved in RRPP-specific research projects, some **1,500 persons directly benefited** from the programme's different components. The cooperation took place across disciplines, languages and national borders.

Based on the great number of **joint project proposals** (126 applications in 2013 alone), **successful research collaborations** and **advocacy initiatives**, we can conclude that an **internationally connected and visible research community has emerged in the Western Balkans** that is able to meet **international standards** in social science research, effectively voice joint interests and critical opinions and devise common agendas, projects and policy proposals.

For many RRPP-supported researchers, this was the first time they experienced the opportunity to do **empirical research, academic freedom and independence**. The **International Academic Mentoring** (including partnerships with 20 outstanding universities from Europe and beyond) has contributed to the **self-worth and self-confidence** of individuals and the research community as a whole.

“RRPP ... has been vastly successful in creating collaborative regional networks, increasing the visibility of academic institutions and enhancing the quality of research outputs.”

Excerpt from the Online Survey 2016

“Approximately half of the data from RRPP will be safely preserved for the long-term in SEEDSbase. All projects from RRPP are recorded at study-level; they have been published and can be discovered around the world by way of the SEEDSbase catalogue and are openly available for secondary use – <https://seedsdata.unil.ch>”

Excerpt from the Final Report, FORS, December 2016

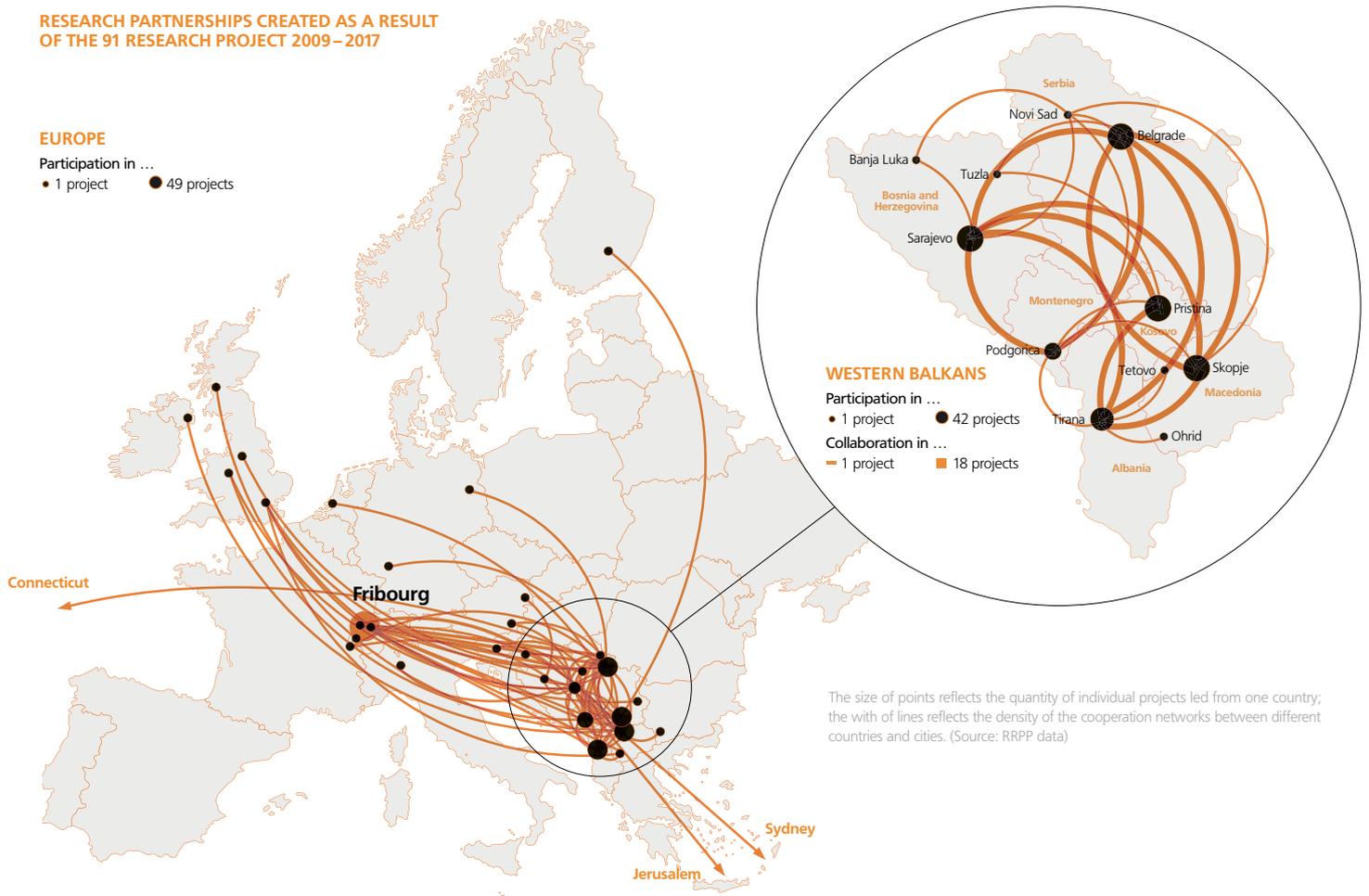
Furthermore, the **rigour and quality of research** have also increased, indicating that a new culture in social science research is taking root.

The programme has also helped create (re)usable data sets that were archived, safeguarded and made accessible online via **SEEDSbase, in cooperation with FORS**.¹

Hence, collaboration was at the heart of the RRPP, and the maps on the next page indicate the many international collaborations, especially among partners within the Western Balkans and between them and partners in Switzerland and beyond.

¹ The Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences, <http://forscenter.ch/en/>

2. Research capacities have been enhanced and first thematic regional research networks created



The programme has significantly contributed to the **development of individual and organisational research and management capacities**.

The results from different evaluative activities indicate that the RRPP had a highly **significant impact on individual researchers**, mainly in the area of strengthening their research and collaboration capacities.

According to the 2016 Online Survey, the programme helped researchers **increase cooperation** with others (85%) while also strengthening their **regional collaboration** (82%). 8% of the survey participants stated that the programme helped them **improve their**

research or their project management skills (64%). The RRPP also helped them **stay in the research sector** in their country (68%) and **attain or begin higher qualification** (22%). Some 200 Academic papers and books produced from RRPP projects have been published independently, but also in well-established and peer-reviewed international publications. 68% of survey participants confirmed that **joint publishing** of research results has helped **boost their carriers**.

RRPP research funding was highly significant for **networking among research organisations** in the Western Balkans, especially considering that the programme was a **pioneer in fostering regional research**

cooperation in the social sciences. When surveyed in 2016 about the RRPP's impact at the institutional level, 64% of respondents stated that the programme has **helped them initiate inter-institutional cooperation at the national, regional and international levels.**

The RRPP's direct implementing partners in the area of research were public (24) and private institutions (6), as well as non-governmental research organisations (33). A dozen institutions were the front-running applicants and could win and lead up to three projects each. All in all, 63 organisations and institutions served as RRPP leading partners in the region, responsible for larger and smaller consortia that collectively comprised an informal **network of over 200 institutional partners** across the Balkans.

Due to the structural and administrative impediments that continue to hinder the development of research at **public universities**, more than half of research projects were coordinated by organisations formally established as **NGOs, including think tanks.** These types of organisations often engage excellent people, including those who have returned from abroad, who bridge the public and non-governmental sectors, work as assistants or lecturers at universities and do research on a project and mandate basis in the NGO sector.

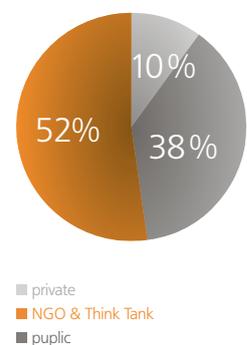
In addition, **new formal and informal thematic research networks** that are internationally well connected and relevant to on-going changes in the Balkans have been created and strengthened. They have continued developing their cooperation structures beyond the RRPP by covering the following thematic areas:

- decentralisation & governance
- migration
- social enterprises
- rural development
- social identities

Hence, researchers from the Western Balkans today are **actively contributing to international knowledge production in sectors that are highly relevant for processes of societal change.**

However, financial instability and lack of funding and growth are still among the major issues faced by research institutions in the Western Balkans. The enlarged research networks and the higher quality of research could increase the **international competitiveness of the researchers involved and their institutions.** Hence, it comes as no surprise that the impact on **regional and international cooperation** has been highly valued. Thanks to the RRPP, they can more easily **access successful international research consortia while relying not only on national, but also international funding.** According to the 2016 Online Survey, the RRPP has helped at least 42% of respondents apply for additional funding, with an overall success rate of 75%. As a result, some RRPP research teams have been able to participate successfully in EU-funded programmes, including as EUFP7 and Horizon 2020.

TYPE OF ORGANISATIONS
LEADING RRPP PROJECT
2008 – 2017



Empirical research:

“For the majority of informants, being able to ‘go into the field’ and collect primary data was one of the most important experiences early in their professional career. Empirical research requires more funding, and as a result has not been possible for the majority ...”

Excerpt from the FG Report summarizing impact, 2016

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS IN NUMBERS

29 **29 regional trainings and seminars**
Eight in Macedonia, five in Serbia, five in Albania, five in Kosovo, four in Bosnia and Herzegovina and two in Montenegro

600 **600 participants in total**
Average number of participants per event: 24 participants and two trainers

60% **Over 60% women**

2 **Average duration of trainings: two days**

TOPICS research + policy related:

- Research Design and Project Proposal Writing
- Policy Research Design
- Qualitative Analysis
- Conducting and Analysing Focus Groups
- Concepts and Measurements
- International Research Project Management
- Project Management for Social Scientists
- Data Management and Analysis
- Academic Writing
- Research-led Teaching
- Writing Effective Policy Papers to Influence Policy Decisions
- Policy Link and Policy Briefs – Making the Link from Research to Policy
- Developing Effective Strategies & Communication Tools for Policy Advocacy
- Writing Competitive Proposals for EU-funded Projects ...

Success Story: Esmeralda Shehaj

Esmeralda Shehaj, Associate Professor at the University of Tirana, returning scholar from Staffordshire University

Dr Shehaj participated in an RRPP project dealing with migration for the first time in 2009, around the time that she started her PhD.

At that time, she did not realise how important the project would be for her own development – or for the establishment of a new research institute. Once back in her home country, Dr Shehaj decided to apply for another RRPP research project with the Faculty of Economy at the University of Tirana as the leading institution. While going through the application procedures, she was surprised to learn that the faculty had previously only participated in one research project at the institutional level, and that research was considered a private matter. While she had previously thought that students were excluded from research processes due to their age or gender, it turned out that lack of research as an institutional effort was a general and systemic problem.

She emphasises that the RRPP increased individual capacities and the quality of research work, but also that it created **hope** for the young and female researchers who



had previously faced significant scepticism and had generally not been able to participate in research. But things have changed, and today more young and female researchers are respected members of the academic community.

This is why the RRPP was so inspiring to her. **Younger and female researchers have found a voice; they participate in relevant projects and initiatives and are able to influence decision-making processes and policy debates.** In the framework of an RRPP project in 2012, and in order to be able to meet the administrative requirements, the Faculty of Economy established its first Research Centre, which gathers researchers from different disciplines and whose first Executive Director was Esmeralda Shehaj.



3. First bridges between research and policymaking in individual countries have been created



The RRPP was perceived as a fresh wind in the social science systems in the region and has initiated the very first dialogues between stakeholders in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. It included **decision makers, relevant ministries, universities, research institutes, think tanks, PhD students and highly qualified returnees** in designing and implementing the National Policy Dialogues.

Policymakers and researchers today are **better informed** about each other's needs in the Western Balkans; they are **better linked** and **cooperate more**. Specific efforts and activities to inform policymakers of RRPP-funded research outcomes have been undertaken by 53% of the 2016 survey participants. Numerous policy briefs, workshops, conferences and roundtables have been produced and organised.

Researchers have been empowered in their capacity to **critically analyse and comment** on policy developments and political decisions. Their **visibility in the media and social networks** has also increased significantly.

Furthermore, the programme has considerably enhanced the capacity of researchers to **inform about and**

advocate for the improvement of sectoral policies through targeted trainings within the Policy Bridging Initiative (PBI), which was implemented by the International Centre for Policy Advocacy (ICPA). Research organisations have also **increased their capacity to contribute to policy development** in specific research fields. Especially during the final phases of the RRPP projects, partners organised **press conferences, joint round tables, panel discussion and thematic conferences** in individual countries.

The programme has considerably **raised awareness about the status of social science research and researchers** in the region. The programme was a pioneer in establishing **the first working groups** that include a variety of state and non-state stakeholders. A concrete impact on legislation, funding mechanisms and the strategic planning processes of relevant state institutions has been observed in some countries.

In the cases of **Serbia and Kosovo**, the programme has clearly been a starting point for a long-term collaboration between different actors in the two countries, a collaboration that will continue to thrive after the programme's completion.

Success Story: National Policy Dialogue in Serbia²



Mihajlo Djukic (author of the success story) and Bojana Radovanovic, both RRPP Coordinators in Serbia

The RRPP was a pioneer in tackling social science research and its status in Serbia in 2013, by initiating the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) and funding the comprehensive study **“Social Science Research Sector in Serbia: An Overview of the Current Situation, Main Challenges and Policy Recommendations”**.

The study was presented and discussed with relevant scientific bodies and stakeholders: **the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Secretariat for Public Policies, the National Advisory Board for Science, the Committee for Social Sciences and the wider research community**. Furthermore, the NPD team contributed to the improvement of a number of strategic public documents in Serbia, including the **Strategy on Scientific Development, the Call for Scientific Projects and the Document on Evaluation of Researchers**. Some of the recommendations have been included in the aforementioned documents, while others are still being debated in meetings of scientific bodies and within the Community of Institutes.

The NPD team in Serbia, including representatives of relevant public institutions and RRPP researchers, has actively

advocated for a larger budget for the social sciences, the revision of processes of evaluating scholarly work, the development of research skills for the creation of public policy documents and support for applications for international research projects.

They also launched an initiative to allow young researchers in Serbia to reevaluate their perspectives, while subsequently **establishing the “Club 500” Association of Young Researchers**, with the objective of helping to improve the quality of social scientific work and higher education. The migration of young academics looking for better opportunities outside of Serbia was also thematised in a documentary. During the four-year period, six conferences and several focus groups and workshops were organised within the NPD, and they were attended by representatives of the scholarly community, policy-makers, NGOs and international organisations.

All these activities resulted in **better networking within the community and the increased participation of researchers in public bodies and working groups engaged in implementing systemic change**. Researchers who met for the first time at NPD events are now working together in specific working groups, writing joint papers and books and realising research projects. Some of them have succeeded in obtaining additional international funding for the realisation of their ideas, including from the SDC-funded PERFORM project, as well as from other funding programmes explicitly supporting research, such as Horizon 2020 and other EU schemes.

² The NPD was implemented by the Institute of Economic Science, Belgrade.

4. Brain circulation was enabled, younger and female researchers empowered and ethnic divisions reduced

Impact on brain circulation

The countries of the Western Balkans are experiencing a significant **brain drain (the loss of human potential due to migration)**. The young and highly qualified in particular want to leave in search of a better future, including opportunities for professional development. The migration of young academics from the region was also thematised in an RRPP documentary on the status of and conditions for young researchers in the Balkans, produced as part of the Serbian NPD.

The RRPP has demonstrated that **brain circulation** can work very well in the scholarly community in a challenging context. Rather than out-migration, the programme **enabled brain circulation i.e. linking researchers from the region residing in foreign countries with their country of origin in the framework of collaborative research projects**.

The availability of RRPP funding contributed to the return of some scholars to their countries of origin, and 68 per cent of the 2016 survey respondents said that the RRPP has helped them stay in the research sector in their country or origin. For 28% of those surveyed, **the ability to stay in the research sector has also influenced their decision to stay in the country**. Researchers from the region living abroad or between different countries (**the scientific diaspora**) were also involved and have contributed to the programme and social scientific research in the region. This is significant, considering that those most likely to leave the region are the highly educated and skilled. Only 11% of 2016 respondents said that the programme influenced their decision to leave the country in order to further their academic development.

Success Story:

Adnan Efendic, founder of CISAR



Dr Efendic was one of the most successful RRPP applicants. He initiated and led two regional projects focusing on **social capital, migration and economic performance**. He first applied as a **young returning PhD graduate** from the UK to the School of Economics and Business at the University of Sarajevo. He says that winning an **RRPP project helped him decide to stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. In 2014 he also established CISAR, an independent research centre, together with his colleagues. His aim was to engage talented young researchers in the research network, which today includes 20 people. Together, the members of CISAR also won a prestigious **Horizon2020 project** as part of an international consortium (Closing the Gap between Formal and Informal Institutions in the Balkans, INFORM). According to Dr Efendic, **the RRPP intervened at a moment when social science research was drying up in the Western Balkans**. When it comes to setting up CISAR, he emphasises that the programme's support in terms of capacity building, developing administrative procedures, drawing on the experiences and knowledge of Analitika, the local implementing partner, and counting on the existing regional networks of partners were vital for the organisation's development. For him, the RRPP was a structurally different programme than others in the region he has worked with, as it closed all the small but significant gaps in research and capacity development, while being completely **based on strong partnerships and collaboration** between different actors.

www.cisar.ba

Impact on reducing ethnic divisions



A community of social science researchers has been established across and despite ethnic divisions and national borders. The RRPP has enabled the emergence of an **open, well-educated and critical research community** in the region, one that is able to accurately address difficult issues in a post-war context. Networking and research cooperation have been evaluated as having the most valuable impact on **trust building**. Participants (57%) in the 2016 survey agreed that the RRPP has **helped reduce ethnic divisions among researchers in the region**.

Research Project: **Figuring Out the Enemy**

The research project “Figuring out the Enemy: Re-imagining Serbian-Albanian Relations” was implemented by the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, and their partner, the NGO KPZ Beton. The project involved 30 researchers from Serbia, Kosovo and Albania and covered various fields in the social sciences, humanities, literature and art theory. The project challenged Serbian-Albanian hostility by reinvestigating events and discourses from the past and recent times, seeking to explain and identify common views, ideas and traditions and thus undermining enmity and promoting cooperation. It generally attracted significant academic and media attention while also marking the first official meeting and academic collaboration between the University of Belgrade and the University of Pristina. The book that resulted from the project was widely discussed and praised across the region and internationally, including with presentations at the Leipzig Book Fair and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University in New York.

Impact on empowering female researchers



The RRPP has **successfully promoted female scientists** from the Western Balkans in their roles as **researchers, project leaders and creators of advocacy tools, with 60% of researchers being women.** Junior and female researchers have been the programme's primary target group from the very beginning, and this focus, together with the regional character of the programme, has contributed to the overall positive image of the RRPP in the region and beyond.

A high rate of participation in the programme by women was expected from the start, not least because there is a higher concentration of women in the social than in the hard sciences around the world.

Apart from promoting the participation of women in management structures and research projects, the RRPP also supported a number of **gender-related research projects**, examining issues such as the condition of social services in rural areas (with a specific focus on the **situation of women in rural** Kosovo and Serbia); **inter-ethnic violence** (with a focus on how large-scale war displacement and protracted transitioning affect the **psycho-social health of women forced migrants**); how migration and remittances affect **women and**

children who stay behind; the representation of women at universities; women's inclusion in socio-economic life; the **gender pay gap** in the Western Balkans; and **the impact of migration on women's empowerment** in Western Balkan countries.

A full list of RRPP-supported projects, including those on gender issues, can be found in the Annex to the Report.

“The RRPP has been very supportive for research in the social sciences, especially in empowering women in doing research.”

Participant in the 2016 Online Survey

RRPP Research Projects 2008–2017

Albania

- **Beyond Ethnic Divisions: The Underestimated Dimension of Social Divisions in the Balkans and their Impact on Social Cohesion and Democracy**
University of New York, Tirana
- **Industrial Citizenship and Migration from the Western Balkans: A Migrant-centred Study of Albania – Greece and Kosovo – Germany Migration**
University of New York, Tirana
- **Socio-demographic Changes to the Family and Child Development in Albania**
National Institute of Statistics of Albania (INSTAT)
- **Monitoring Albanian Steps towards Gender Equality: Gender Quotas in Politics**
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana
- **Dealing with Integration: The Case of Internal Migrants in Albania**
Advanced Studies Center
- **Assessing Land Rights Security in the Context of Agriculture and Social Development in Rural Albania**
Development Solutions Associates
- **Political and Equity Implications of Intergovernmental Transfers: The Cases of Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia**
Development Solutions Associates
- **Clientelism, Corruption and Elections in the Western Balkans: A Comparative Analysis of Causes and Effects**
Development Solutions Associates
- **Street Children in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo: Spaces and Identities in a Struggle for Survival**
European University of Tirana (EUT)
- **Women's Inclusion in Socio-economic Life: Determinants of Female Labour Force Participation in the Western Balkans (P-WISE)**
Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana
- **The Dynamics of Women's Inclusion in Socio-economic Life: The Cases of Albania and Macedonia**
Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana
- **Education-specific Corruption in the Western Balkans**
South East Europe Center for Economic Development (SECED)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- **Towards Transformative Politics: Intersecting Knowledge Production and Social Activism**
Grad Tuzla, Centre for Research, Art and Civic Engagement, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Feminisms in Post-socialist Muslim Contexts**
Centre for Interdisciplinary
- **State or Nation Building? Visions, Controversies and Perspectives Regarding Political Transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
Post-graduate Studies (CIPS), University of Sarajevo
- **Construing Cultural Identity and Key Developments within Modern National Projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tuzla

- **Construction of National and Ethnic Identities among Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
Centar za kulturni i socijalni popravak (CKSP), Banja Luka
- **(Un)covering Karadžić: A Case Study on the Media's (Re)production of National Ideologies through War Crimes**
Coverage in the Former Yugoslavia
- **Communication Practices in the Context of Social Uprisings and Requests for Public Accountability**
Mediacentar Foundation, Sarajevo
- **Development of Functional Media Institutions in the Western Balkans: A Comparative Study**
Analitika – Center for Social Research, Sarajevo
- **Courts as Policy Makers? Examining the Role of Constitutional Courts as Agents of Change in the Western Balkans**
Analitika also functioned as the RRPP Local Coordination Unit
- **Media Between Freedom and Dependence: The Role of Print Media in the Process of Refugee Return**
Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo
- **Ethnic Tensions and Institutional and Economic Performance in Bosnia and Herzegovina: What Are the Causal Links?**
School of Economics & Business (SEBS), Sarajevo
- **Linking Rural Entrepreneurs and the Diaspora in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina**
Center for Economic Development and Research (CEDAR), Sarajevo
- **Minorities and the Media in the Western Balkans: A Regional Comparative Research Project on the Quality of Minority Media Content**
Media Plan Institute, Sarajevo
- **Social Capital and Migration: Evidence from a Post-conflict Environment**
Center for Interdisciplinary Social Applied Research (CISAR)
- **Follow-up Project: Social Capital and Migration: Evidence from a Post-conflict Environment**
Center for Interdisciplinary Social Applied Research (CISAR)
- **Engendering Forced Migration, Socio-political Transition and Mental Health in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo**
Women's Empowerment Foundation, Sarajevo
- **Follow-up Project: Engendering Forced Migration, Socio-political Transition and Mental Health in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo**
Women's Empowerment Foundation, Sarajevo

Kosovo

- **Civil Society in Kosovo since 1999**
Department of Political Science, University of Pristina
- **Migration and its Impact on the Economic Development of the Home Country: Kosovo and Albania (1998–2013)**
EDG Economic Development Group, Pristina
- **Mapping Clientelism and its Causes: Rents, Rent-seeking and Democracy in Kosovo and Albania (1998–2013)**
Centre for Political Courage (CPC)
CPC also functioned as the RRPP Local Coordination Unit

Macedonia

- **Mapping the Leaders in Macedonia and Albania: The Potential for Elites to Promote Positive Social Change**
Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Skopje
- **Brain Circulation and the Role of Diasporas in the Balkans: Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo**
South-East European University (SEEU), Tetovo
- **Federalization or Unitary State: The Permanent Dilemma of Multi-ethnic Societies: The Case of the Republic of Macedonia**
FORUM-CSID, Skopje
- **Universities' Gender Practices in the Republic of Macedonia: The Inclusion and Exclusion of Women in Decision-making Structures and Processes**
Institute of Gender Studies, SS. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje
- **The Nation State and Institutions of Academic Knowledge: Producing and Legitimizing Dominant Discourses of and about Knowledge about Society**
EuroBalkan Institute in Social Sciences and Humanities, Skopje
- **The Role of the European Union in Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia**
Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law "Justinianus Primus", SS. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje
- **Generation "Getting Nowhere": The Transitions of Unemployed Youth in Transitional Macedonia**
Research in Action Citizens' Association (REACTOR), Skopje
- **Challenges and Opportunities Regarding Employment for Marginalized Groups in Social Enterprises**
Research in Action Citizens' Association (REACTOR), Skopje
- **Balkan Social Enterprise Research Network**
Research in Action Citizens' Association (REACTOR), Skopje
- **Between the Internal and External "Other": Deconstructing Macedonian National Identity**
Analytica, Skopje
- **Migration and Development in Albania and Macedonia: The Effects of Remittances on the Education and Health of Family Members Left Behind**
Analytica, Skopje
- **Consumption or Self-employment? Evidence from the Use of Remittances in Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, with Emphasis on Crisis, Gender and Ethnicity**
University American College, Skopje
- **Europeanization through the Implementation of the Rule of Law in the Western Balkans**
IDSCS Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis", Skopje
- **Health Equity in Macedonia: The Socio-economic, Financial and Human Security Dimensions**
Center for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation Studiorum, Skopje
- **Migration as Social Protection: An Analysis of Macedonian, Albanian and Serbian Remittance-receiving Households**
Finance Think Association for Economic Research, Skopje
- **Forecasting the Size and Effects of Emigration and Remittances in Four Western Balkan Countries**
Finance Think Association for Economic Research, Skopje

- **Post-socialist Creative Work: An Exploration of Experiences of Work and Work-related Inequality in Creative Industries and Creative Labour Markets in Macedonia and Albania**
Media Artes, Ohrid
- **Theory from the Balkans: A Contribution to Creative Labour Studies**
Media Artes, Ohrid
- **The Impact of the Socio-economic Structure of the Rural Population on the Success of Rural Development Policy**
Association of Agricultural Economists of Macedonia (AAEM)
- **Establishing a Rural Development Network for Joint Research Cooperation**
Association of Agricultural Economists of Macedonia (AAEM)
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