



## CRPM at a conference on Constitutional Courts in the Former Yugoslavia: The Role and Impact in Times of Transition

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This conference is an activity from an RRPP project aiming to analyze the Constitutional Courts (CC) in 5 countries from the Balkan region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo) in their role as policy makers and agents in the transition towards democracy. The reason behind participating in such an analysis is the CCs generally have a potential to act as “liberalizing” political actors. Whether or not CCs across the region, and in particular, the Macedonian CC, have realized that potential is the main question that CRPM together with its project partners is trying to give an answer to.

Other attempts to answer this and other related questions about the CCs are rare and scholarly discussion is quite limited. Comparatively, in Europe, most scholars have focused on Central and Eastern Europe where they have noted moderate to significant positive influence by their respective Courts. With some exceptions, the initial results of the RRPP project (implemented in 2014-2016) point to a much smaller positive influence by the CCs in the 5 analyzed countries from the Balkan region.

The conference (held in Sarajevo, BiH, on 18.04.2016) also shed light on the veiled details about Courts’ competences, positioning, constitutional tradition, learning and overall performance in resolving important political and social questions in the successor states of the former Yugoslavia.

The project team was joined by keynote speaker Professor Bojan Bugarič from the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana and other distinguished experts in the field such as Alex Schwartz from



the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast, Sanja Barić from the University of Rijeka Law Faculty, and judge Margarita Caca Nikolovska of the Constitutional Court of BiH.

For more information, click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the conference program.