





EDUCATE to PREVENT

CVE Education and Municipal Practitioners
Community of Practice and Exchange Workshop

Skopje, 05-09 June 2019









CVE Education and Municipal Practitioners Community of Practice and Exchange Workshop

Skopje, 5-9 June, 2019, Hilton Double Tree

DAY 1: 5 JUNE, 2019 EVENT OPENING

Arrival of participants and registration in Hotel Hilton Double Tree

12:00 - 12:30 Official opening of the workshop; welcome speeches

Gjergji Vurmo

Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), SPS Event Director

Marija Risteska

Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), SPS Event Co-director

Nikola Dujovski

Dean Faculty for Security University Ss Clement of Ohrid

- **12:30 13:30** Welcome Lunch
- 13:30 15:00 Keynote speaker: Valery Perry, CVE Expert

Topic: Setting the basis – Extremism, violent extremism, prevention and countering violent extremism; current trends, challenges and problems and how these can be solved through use of the rights-based approach in education

- **15:00 -15:30** Coffee Break
- **15:30 16:15** Zoran Popov, Senior Political Advisor, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

Topic: RCC's role in regional cooperation for Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (P/CVE).

16:15 - 17:00 Redion Qirjazi, IDM

Topic: How to prevent radicalization? The role of community policing in national security and countering violent extremism in Albania

19:00 - 20:00 Dinner (for guests staying in Hotel Hilton)

DAY 2:6 JUNE, 2019 OSCE GUIDANCE ON PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND PRE-CRIMINAL INTERVENTIONS

09:00 - 09:30 Ambassador Clemens Koja, Head of OSCE Mission to Skopje

Topic: Opening Remarks

09:30 - 10:30 Georgia Holmer, OSCE Senior Adviser on Anti-terrorism Issues

Topic: Strengthening the role of civil society in preventing violent extremism – challenges and opportunities in South-Eastern Europe

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 - 13:00 Panel discussion

Orlaith King

OSCE Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism (LIVE);

Meral Musli Tajroska

Women without Borders;

Sefer Selimi

Democracy Lab;

Dragana Jovanovska

Center for Intercultural Dialogue;

Moderator: Marina Mclellan, OSCE Mission to Skopje

Topic: Ensuring an impactful and effective role of civil society in PVE: practitioner perspectives of working with youth, women and community leaders

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 15:30 Eric Rosand, Director of the Prevention Project: Organizing Against Violent Extremism

Topic: Introduction into key concepts to referral mechanisms: analysis of strengths and risks

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:00 Marija Risteska, CRPM policy expert

Topic: Interactive discussion session: how can key concepts relevant to referral mechanisms be applied in the North Macedonia context?

19:00 - 20:00 Dinner (for guests staying in Hotel Hilton)

DAY 3:7 JUNE, 2019 COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

09:00 - 10:30 Elvira Hadzibegovic Bubanja, Executive Director at Forum Youth MNE

Topic: Civil society organizations in preventing and countering violent extremism in the Western Balkans

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 - 11:45 Vilma Venkovska Milchev, Search for Common Ground; Rade Rajkocevski, Faculty for Security, University St. Clement of Ohrid

Topic: Community action teams as a model for violent extremism prevention on a local level in North Macedonia

11:45 - 12:30 Marija Risteska, CRPM Policy Expert

Topic: Passage for Prevent - a proposed policy model on referral community-based system in North Macedonia

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 Ivan Stefanovski, CVE Research Analyst; Sara Osmani, CVE Trainer

Topic: Role of community stakeholders in the referral system in North Macedonia

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 - 17:00 Ivan Stefanovski, CVE Research Analyst; Sara Osmani, CVE Trainer

Topic: Specific initiative supporting development of services to build community resilience

19:00 - 20:00 Dinner (for guests staying in Hotel Hilton)

DAY 4: 8 JUNE, 2019 ROLE OF EDUCATION IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

09:00 - 10:30 Karin Heremans, Co-chair of the Education working group, Radicalisation Awareness Network Europe; Chairwoman of the Expert Cell for Prevention of Radicalisation, Department of Education and Wellbeing and Health of the Flemish Government

Topic: Prevention of radicalisation and polarisation in the GO! Flemish education system

Workshop on polarisation management

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30 Aleksandar Cekov, CRPM Project Manager and Metin Muaremi, Center for Education and Development

Topic: Baseline study on perception of front-line school workers on radicalization and violent extremism'; tools for identifying manifestations of radicalization and violent behaviour in schools

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 Danijela Torbica, IOM Project coordinator and Alena Velagic, IOM Project coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Topic: Moving towards Sustainable Approaches to Prevent Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans: Research on impact of MoviEQ workshops - inclusion in school curricula

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:00 Dalina Jashari, IDM Program Manager

Topic: Presentation of the School as a community center model applied in Albania

16:00 - 16:45 Sara Barbieri and Aleksandar Jovanovski, OSCE Mission to Skopje; Nikola Dujovski, Dean Faculty for Security University Ss Clement of Ohrid

Topic: Research on violent extremism and variety of approaches in building resilience in schools towards violent extremism

16:45 - 17:30 Agron Sojati, National Coordinator for Countering Violent Extremism, Republic of Albania

Topic: Albanian experience in capacity building for frontliners and multiagency / multiplayer coordination at a community level

19:00 - 20:00 Dinner and Reception

DAY 5: 9 JUNE. 2019 CERTIFICATION CEREMONY

07:00 - 09:00 Breakfast

09:00 - 10:30 World café: assessment of the workshop

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30 Closing and certification ceremony

Agron Sojati, National coordinator for countering violent extremism, Republic of Albania

Marija Risteska, Centre for Research and Policy Making, Science for Peace and Security Event Co-director

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Agron Sojati

Graduated from the Albanian Military Academy. Mr. Sojati is also an FBI National Academy Graduate and holds a Master's Degree in International and European Security from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He has a long experience both in Military Administration and Law Enforcement.

During 2005 – 2006, Mr. Sojati has been Member of Euro-Atlantic Advisory Team (EAAT) developed to assist the four GUAM countries to stand up the GUAM Virtual Law Enforcement Center project, funded by the US State Department and overseen by US Department of Justice ICITAP.

From 2001 till 2008 has served as Albanian Police Liaison Officer to SECI Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime in Bucharest. He also worked as a Contractor with U.S. Justice Department, ICITAP in the US –GUAM Framework Program for Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan & Moldova from 2005 to 2006.

Between 2009 and 2011 has been serving as Deputy Director of Witness Protection Unit, to continue as Investigation expert of Interpol National Center Bureau until 2013. During 2013 - 2014 he has been Director of Witness Protection Unit.

From 2014 till 2016, he has served as Director of Counter Terrorism Unit in the State Police HD.

From august 2016, Mr. Sojati was appointed as Assistant to Prime Minister for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) & National Coordinator for CVE.



Aleksandar Cekov, MSc

Aleksandar Cekov, MSc is analyst and researcher at the Centar for Research and Policy Making. He holds a Master degree from the University of Lund, Sweden and Diploma in Advanced European Studies from the Fondazione Collegio Europeo di Parma, Italy. Mr. Cekov was awarded with a scholarship by the European Commission, Erasmus Mundus Partnerships (BASILEUS) in 2008, and a scholarship by the Italian Ministry of Foreigh Affairs in 2011. His academic interests are in the field of EU Integration with a special focus on the enlargment, europeanization, the role of the EU in International Relations, democratizaiton and good governance and party politics. Currently he works on a project related to countering



Aleksandar Jovanovski,Programme Assistant (host country)

He is part of the Social Cohesion Section, supporting the programmatic activities of the Education portfolio. He worked as a consultant for capacity building services and programme management, working as a free-lancer and also as part of ABA ROLI, MCIC and OSCE's Building Bridges project. He also holds a BA in Architecture.



Alena Velagic,
MA Psychology and MA Organization and Management

Since 2005, Alena Velagic co-operated with local NGOs as a project coordinator on projects related to the prevention of socially undesirable behaviors. During her work experience, she has developed several Handbooks for Professionals and Youth Workers on promoting and developing protective factors and prevention of addiction in working with youth and children. Currently, she is working as Project Assistant on the project Moving to sustainable approaches in the prevention of violent extremism in Western Balkan. Since 2016, she's been involved in the implementation of MoviEQ workshops and development and coordination of the Social Media Counter Narrative Online Training. Along with her colleague Danijela Torbica, she is certified Trainer of Trainers for ICThinking methodology, from Cambridge University. In 2017, she took part in the research that has been conducted within the P/CVE project with Centre for Psychological Research, Faculty of Philosophy, Sarajevo University. Her current work focuses on developing of new methodology (SMART Youth) for development and enhancement of soft/life skills, which will represent advance level of MoviEQ workshops.



Ms. Dalina Jashari

Ms. Dalina Jashari is a project manager and a researcher at the Institute for Democracy and Mediation. She has a long working experience in strengthening capacities of local CSOs and communities in remote areas, boosting their participation in decision-making and advocacy actions. She is an expert on prevention of violent extremism in Albania with special focus on community resilience. Ms. Jashari is a lecturer at the University of Tirana on Critical Thinking and has published several academic articles. She holds a PhD on European Higher Education Policies from Institute of European Studies, University of Tirana, a master's and bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Tirana.



Danijela Torbica, BA Security and peace studies Project Coordinator, International Organization for Migration – Mission in BiH

Danijela Torbica has over 20 years of experience with work in different fields gained during work for UNHCR (11 years) and IOM (12 years). Vast experience in project implementation of various projects related to security sector and psychosocial support realized in close cooperation with the Ministry of defence, Ministry of security and Ministries of Health in BiH. Since 2016, she is Project coordinator on the components related to psychosocial support and work with educational system, such as MoviEQ Workshops within the Project "Moving to sustainable approaches in the prevention of violent extremism in Western Balkan". Along with her colleague Alena Velagic, she is certified Trainer of Trainers for ICThinking methodology. From 2017, she coordinated research that has been conducted within the project with Centre for Psychological Research, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo. Her current work focuses on inclusion of MoviEQ methodology in the school curriculum in Bosnia and Herzegovina and assisting in development of new methodology that will focus on smooth and life skills development, which represents advance level of MoviEQ workshops.



Elvira Hadzibegovic Bubanja

Executive Director at Forum MNE, communication specialist /community youth worker with a two decade rich experience in the field of civil society in the Western Balkans. She holds a bachelor in education with major in science from double degree program of Sweden-Serbian partnership, has extensive knowledge in program management and social innovation programs. Experienced creator, evaluator, trainer and facilitator in youth and adult education both formal and non-formal field of work. Her experience and competencies in PCVE field are connected with education in programs of US Department of State, RUSI, OSCE LIVE Women in VERLT etc. On the national Montenegrin level she is part of governmental body – Inter-sectorial team for monitoring and evaluation of PCVE National strategy host by Ministry of Interior Affairs. She is a lead member of Western Balkan CSO consortium responsible for creation of first CSO-HUB on PCVE in WB, to be established by 2021.



Eric Rosand

Eric Rosand is the Director of The Prevention Project: Organizing Against Violent Extremism, a Non-resident Senior Fellow in the Brookings Institution's Foreign Policy Program, a Senior Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (UK), and President and Founder of PVE Solutions. He consults for governments, international organizations, and foundations. From 2010-2016 he was a senior official at the U.S. Department of State, working on counterterrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). Among other roles, he served as the policy coordinator for the 2015 White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism and its follow-on process. He spearheaded the development and launch of a number of international counterterrorism and P/CVE initiatives, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Hedayah, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, and the Strong Cities Network. From 2006 to 2010, he was a co-director of the Center on Global Counter-terrorism Cooperation (now the Global Center on Cooperative Security), and served as a Non-Resident Fellow at New York University's Center for International Cooperation. He has also served in the State Department's Office of the Legal Advisor and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. His writings have appeared in a wide range of publications including the American Journal of International Law, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, Just Security, Lawfare, Order from Chaos, Time, and War on the Rocks. He has appeared on the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Al-Jazeera, Sky News (Australia) and has been quoted in many newspapers around the globe. He holds a BA in history from Haverford College, a JD from Columbia University School of Law, and an LLM (Hons) in international law from Cambridge University.



Georgia Holmer

Georgia Holmer is a Senior Advisor for Anti-terrorism Issues and the focal point on CVE (VERLT) in the OSCE Secretariat [Action against Terrorism Unit in the Transnational Threats Department]. She is the former Director of CVE (countering violent extremism) at the United States Institute of Peace, where she oversaw a broad portfolio of research and capacity building programs in North Africa, the Sahel and East Asia. She has

ten years of distinguished service as a terrorism analyst at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and was assigned long-term to the Office of the Legal Attaché in the US Embassies in Athens and Copenhagen in support of international investigations. She worked as an analytic advisor on transnational threats at the US Department of Homeland Security, and has published and presented extensively on CT and CVE policy, strategy and practice in numerous US and international fora. She holds Master's degrees in international human rights law from Oxford University and in international relations from Boston University.



Ivan Stefanovski

Ivan Stefanovski is a PhD candidate in Political Science and Sociology at the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, at the Scuola Normale Superiore University in Florence. He has a background in Law. Having more than 10 years of research and teaching experience, his current interest lay in the fields of contemporary social movements in South East Europe, democratization, and preventing/countering violent extremism. You can find Ivan's detailed CV and list of publications on LinkedIn at:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/ivan-stefanovski-51980435?trk=hp-identity-name



Karin Heremans

Karin Heremans is principal of the Royal Athenaeum school in Antwerp and part-time coordinator of radicalisation prevention for the department of policy and strategy at GO!, the Flemish community's education structure. Since 2015, she has also been co-chair of the European Commission's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). She is member of the Belgian UFUNGU network to prevent radicalisation and since January 2017 is consulting the King Baudouin Foundation on family support. Ms Heremans studied Roman languages and education management and was a teacher for several years.



Marija Risteska

Marija Risteska holds PhD in political science. She is the founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Research and Policy Making, Her research work is in the area of public administration reform, public management, good governance, policy transfer and European integration. She thought political science courses at FON University and New York College Skopje. Risteska has contributed to four specific public sector reforms in Macedonia on public policy development, strategic planning, ex-post policy evaluation and gender responsive budgeting. Marija Risteska has written two textbooks: "Public policy, policy making and public value (2017); and Gender Responsive Budgeting (2013). She also edited the book "Mapping the leaders in Macedonia and Albania: can elites promote positive social change?"(2010) and co-edited the books "The Macedonian Question: 20 Years of Political Struggle into European Integration Structures" (2012); "Ten years after the Ohrid Framework Agreement: Lessons (to be) learned" (2011) and "European Law for Small and Medium Enterprises" (2004). Risteska works on the CRPM project on countering violent extremism "Educate2Prevent: Strengthening Front-line School Workers and Parents to Build Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism"



Meral Musli Tayroska

Meral Musli Tayroska is the Ambassador of Women without Borders. She got her bachelor degree in psychology at MSI G.R. Derzavin University in Sv. Nikole in the Republic of North Macedonia. Her professional career began in the year of 2017, when she became part of Women without Borders as an educator, where she had the obligation to empower women to take an active role in safeguarding their families against the threat of violent extremism. With the workshops she offered concerned mothers training in personal, communication and parenting skills so they can recognize and react to early warning signs of possible radicalization in their children. In the same year she was send by the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of North Macedonia, to participate at the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) for Preventing Violent Extremism & Countering Violent Extremism in Washington DC, New York and Los Angeles, there she had the opportunity to gain exceptional knowledge on what is the future of PVE / CVE. Her dedication earned her the spot of becoming the Ambassador and Spokeswoman of the international organization Women without Borders. Meral has been part of multiple conferences and trainings regarding prevention and countering extremism and radicalization, around the world and in her hometown. She has also appeared on couple of TV Shows in the Republic of North Macedonia.



Metin Muaremi

Muaremi has more than 10 years' experience in managerial positions in projects at national and international level, starting from CBC LOJA (2002-2005), Forum SYD, Coordinator and Local Junior Expert in ECAP project (EU project), Master trainer in USAID projects and founder of Center for Education and Development CED. He has been participant and leader in various trainings like: management, conflict resolution, mentoring, financial operations, intercultural learning, strategic planning and international cooperation through various intercultural exchanges and conferences organized by the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation. Friedenstkreiss Hale, OFAJ, EVS. He is also known as a participant and trainer of the programme for Leadership and Community Youth Work(finished Level A, B and B+) through Centre for non-formal education Triagolnik, Proni and Forum Syd certified by Joncheping University in Sweden. Great experience in identifying, developing and managing projects for the development of culture in rural areas, through non formal education activities and volunteers.



Nikola Dujovski

Prof. d-r Nikola Dujovski is the Dean of the Faculty of Security – Skopje, University "St. Kliment Ohridski"- Bitola. In the period 2013-2017 he was a Vice Dean responsible for teaching and science. He is Associate Professor in Police Ethics, Police Management, Integrated Border Management, Illegal Migration and Smuggling and Justice and Home Affairs of the EU. His professional background encompasses both, law enforcement and academic work. Prior to the academic career, his law enforcement engagement of 12 years involves various positions within the Ministry of Interior including operational and commanding level. His field of academic interest is related to the security, police works and European integrations. He is also a member of National Advisory Team for Border Management, actively involved in preparation of National Strategy for Border Management 2015-2020.



Orlaith King

Ms Orlaith King (pronounced 'Orla') is a Senior Project Assistant with the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department. She has an instrumental role in the development and implementation of 'Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism' (LIVE), the OSCE's comprehensive training and coaching programme designed to enable civil society actors to take action against violent extremism on the community level, safely and effectively. Orlaith previously served in programmatic, policy advisory and communication capacities with an INGO for children and youth. In a voluntary capacity she visits prisoners abroad on behalf of a national probation service.



Rade Rajkovchevski

Rade Rajkovchevski is Associate Professor and Vice-Dean for International Cooperation in the Faculty of Security in Skopje, St. Kliment Ohridski University from Bitola. Prior to his academic career which began in 2006, his work experience was associated to working in army, civil protection and security. He defended the Master's thesis on national security policy and conflict prevention (2010) and his doctoral dissertation is related to the development and challenges of the European police cooperation (2013). He has references as Researcher in the project COMPOSITE-Comparative Police Studies in the EU (FP7 Security, 2010-2014); Researcher on identification of cases of Trafficking on human beings and gender based violence within mixed migrants flows within project SAFFER-Shelters and Access for Empowerment and Risk Reduction (MARRI Regional Center, 2017), National Short-Term Expert in GIZ's project for illicit cash transfer (2018) and Consultant of UK's Moonshoot CVE on governmental processes for countering violent extremism in Republic of Macedonia. In addition, he has references as technical expert of the City of Skopje in two European Commission DG ECHO's projects dedicated to the civil protection and humanitarian assistance (ACHELOUS-Action of Contrast to Hydraulic Emergency in Local Urban Site [2014-2015] and EPICURO-European Partnership for Innovative Cities within an Urban Resilience Outlook [2017-2019]). He is author of two books, several book chapters and more than 30 articles dedicated to security issues. He is member of the Board of Trustee of "The Balkan Forum" regional non-governmental initiative and reviewer of the Routledge: Taylor and Francis Group's journal (Policing and Society: An International Journal of Research and Policy) and other journals in Croatia, Poland, Columbia and other countries, focused on policing, security and migrations.

Areas of expertise: crisis management, civil protection, migrations, policing, and security policy.



Sara Barbieri

Sara Barbieri – Senior Social Cohesion Officer, OSCE Mission to Skopje Sara holds a BA and MA in Political Science and a PhD in Modern History that she completed through extensive field work in Russia. She joined the OSCE Mission to Skopje in 2014. Her areas of expertise include human rights and diversity management. As Senior Social Cohesion Officer, she leads the Mission's Social Cohesion Section.



Sara Osmani

Sara Osmani, has master degree in Human Resource Management and PhD degree in Psychology. She has an extensive experience in: trainings, mentoring, project coordinating, researching, monitoring and evaluation and moderating Community Forums Program. Also she has working and training knowledge in areas of PVE, communication, conflict resolution, child/human rights, interethnic integration in education, inter-ethnic relations, needs assessment, presentation of results, project cycle management, civic engagement and similar. She has worked with different target population, like students, teachers and parents from primary/ secondary schools and kindergarten, NGO representatives and youth from different regions, representatives of national educational institutions and municipalities. She speaks fluently Albanian and Macedonian language, very good English, Serbian and Turkish language.



Sefer Selimi

Sefer Selimi is the Founder and CEO of Democracy Lab. He holds a BA in Business Administration from South East European University (SEEU) and a MSc in Diplomacy and International Relations from the International University of Struga. He is a 2016 alumnus of the Community Solutions Program, a U.S. department of State leadership program implemented by IREX. Over the course of his career he has worked as project manager for different local NGOs, implementing projects in the fields of transparency and accountability of local government.



Valery Perry

Valery Perry has worked in the Western Balkans since the late 1990s, conducting research and working for organizations including the Democratization Policy Council (DPC), the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI), the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG), the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR), and several NGOs. From September 2017 - March 2019 she worked at the OSCE Mission to Serbia as Project Coordinator on a project to prevent and counter violent extremism, having previously worked at the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo as Deputy Director of the Education Department, and Deputy Director of the Human Dimension Department. She has consulted for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Development Program, the Regional Cooperation Council, USAID, IMPAQ International, and other organizations. She attended public schools, and went on to receive a BA from the University of Rochester, an MA from Indiana University's Russian and East European Institute, and a PhD from George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Valery has published numerous articles and book chapters, has spoken at conferences and policy events in the United States and throughout Europe, and has testified at the U.S. Congress. In 2019, Ibidem Press/Columbia University Press published a book she edited, Extremism and Violent Extremism in Serbia: 21-st Century Manifestations of an Historical Challenge. In 2015. Ashgate published a book she co-edited with Soeren Keil, entitled. Statebuilding and Democratization in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is a member of the Rotary Club Sarajevo International Delta, dabbles in documentary filmmaking and enjoys pursuing other creative projects.



Vilma Venkovska Milchev

Vilma Venkovska Milchev is the Country Director of Search for Common Ground in R.N. Macedonia has been leading numerous programs using education and media to improve ethnic cohesion. Her expertise is in the fields of education, civil society, peacebuilding and conflict transformation, facilitating dialog between central and local government authorities, local capacity building, P/CVE and participatory community development. Her contribution to the work with children and youth includes developing and implementing multicultural models of cooperation between students from various ethnic communities including the first bilingual multicultural Mozaik model in Macedonia and in Kosovo, also to the Curriculum and developing Parent-Teachers Handbook for the well-known children TV Series Nashe Maalo and for other media, arts and culture projects. In the field of P/CVE she has been involved in the projects that support National Strategy for CVE in the establishment of the Community Action teams to strengthen the resilience of the local communities to violent extremism. She has excellent knowledge of the ethnic, cultural, political, and cross-border issues based on 20 years of experience in the Western Balkan region. She holds MA in Intercultural Studies and Degree on Civil Society Initiatives in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation from School for international Training (SIT), Vermont, USA.



Gjergji Vurmo

Gjergji Vurmo is IDM's Programme Director and a senior researcher on good governance, civil society, security and western Balkan's EU accession. His work focuses on governance, the European Union, and a number of security-related issues, including radicalism and violent extremism. He is author of several IDM studies and reports related to civil society development, governance and anti-corruption, EU accession process, radicalism and violent extremism. Gjergji studied law at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and obtained his MA degree on European studies at the University of Bologna, Italy.



Dragana Jovanovska

Dragana Jovanovska is part of Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID), a youth-led organisation working with young people from different ethnic, religious and cultural background in a post-conflict community. She is working as the Executive director of the organization, and they are running an open youth centre MultiKulti (MultiKynth) in Kumanovo, working on the topics of intercultural dialogue, human rights education and youth participation by using integrated education. Dragana is an experienced educator working with non-formal education with young people and adults on a local, national and international level, with her focus being on human rights education, inclusion, youth participation, human rights education and prevention.



Zoran Popov

A career diplomat, possessing 16 years of experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia. Progressed through a series of roles from an entry level junior desk position to head of department, being part of the team in charge of North Macedonia's Eurointegration process. As of September 2016, took over the position of Senior Political Advisor in the Regional Cooperation Council. Holds an MA in International Relations, University of Westminster, UK.

