

# IVAN NIKOLOVSKI

## EDUCATION

- From Sep. 2021** Central European University, Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations – Vienna, Austria  
- Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, International Relations track
- Sep 2015 – Jun. 2017** Central European University, Department of Political Science – Budapest, Hungary  
- MA in Political Science (two years), specialization in Comparative Politics, with distinction
- Thesis title: [What brings them together? : social movements in divided societies: the case of the Republic of Macedonia](#)
- Sep 2012 – Jul.2015** University of “St. Cyril and Methodius” – Skopje, Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus”, Department of Political Science  
- BA in Political Science

## WORKING EXPERIENCE

**From Sep. 2021**

**Associate researcher**

[Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje](#)  
Center for European Integrations

**Sep. 2017 – Aug. 2021**

**Researcher**

[Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje](#)  
Center for European Integrations

**Tasks:** 1) Project development and management; 2) Policy and data analysis; 3) Quantitative and qualitative research; and 4) Event management

**Areas:** 1) EU enlargement; 2) foreign policy and international relations; 3) regional cooperation in the Western Balkans

**Projects:** 1) [Bridging the gap between formal processes and informal practices that shape judicial culture in the Western Balkan](#) (October 2020 – October 2022), supported by the Netherlands’ Fund for Regional Partnership – MATRA; 2) [Cooperation Instrument for the Western Balkans Think Tanks - THINK BALKANS](#) (October 2020 - January 2022), supported by the International Visegrad Fund; 3) [Perform on Reform](#) (from September 2017), supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation; 4) Europeanization Beyond Process (September 2019 - December 2020), supported by the Open Society Initiative for Europe; 5) [Addressing corrosive capital flows](#) (July 2019 - September 2020), supported by the Center For International Private Enterprise; 6) [Regional cooperation in the Western Balkans: The Berlin Process and Visegrad Group in comparison](#) (January 2019 – January 2020), supported by the International Visegrad Fund; and 7) [Southeast European Think Net Network](#) (January 2018 - December 2019), supported by the European Fund for the Balkans

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Nov. 2020 to Feb. 2021**

**Research fellow**

[Global Focus Center](#)

**Research topic:** Short-term fellowship aimed at analyzing the effectiveness of the Western economic instruments in counterweighting Chinese influence in CEE and the Western Balkans.

**Tasks:** Desktop research, monitoring of latest trends, interviews with relevant stakeholders, and writing an article of around 5,000 words

**Researcher**

[Impact Institute for Research](#)

**Aug. 2017 to Oct. 2017**

**Research project:** Local choice – Macedonia 2017

**Tasks:** Desk research and coding of political parties' manifestos during the 2017 local elections in North Macedonia

## **CONFERENCES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Jul. 2021</b>	2021 Prespa Forum Dialogue International Conference “Western Balkans: The Missing Puzzle For Completing Europe”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia – Ohrid and Oteshevo, North Macedonia
<b>Jun. 2021</b>	Civil Society & Think Tank Forum I: Road to Berlin (online), co-organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and Southeast Europe Association, with the support by the German Federal Foreign Office
<b>Nov. 2020</b>	Berlin Process Think Tank and Civil Society Forum Sofia 2020 (online), co-organized by the European Council on Foreign Relations Sofia Office and the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje, as part of the 2020 joint Presidency of the Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Bulgaria with the Western Balkans Summit Series
<b>Sep. 2020</b>	Aspen Online Expert Workshop “The COVID-19 Pandemic in the Western Balkans: Consequences and Policy Approaches”, organized by the Aspen Institute Germany
<b>Aug. 2020 to Sep. 2020</b>	European Forum Alpbach (online)
<b>Mar. 2020</b>	Think Tank Forum Skopje “Stimulating strategic autonomy. Western Balkans’ contribution for a shared European Future”, co-organized by the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje and European Council on Foreign Relations Sofia Office, as part of the 2020 joint Presidency of the Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Bulgaria with the Western Balkans Summit Series – Skopje, North Macedonia
<b>Nov. 2019</b>	Regional Youth Leadership Forum, organized by European Movement Novi Sad and Belgrade School for Political Excellence, Novi Sad, Serbia
<b>Oct. 2019</b>	Think Tank Roundtable Western Balkans and the Berlin Process – Way forward, organized by the Polish Ministry for Foreign Affairs as part of the 2019 Western Balkans Summit in Poznan – Poznan, Poland
<b>Aug. 2019 to Sep. 2019</b>	Bled Strategic Forum, organized by the Slovenian Ministry for Foreign Affairs – Ljubljana and Bled, Slovenia
<b>Jul. 2019</b>	Civil Society Forum in Poznan, organized by the Polish Ministry for Foreign Affairs as part of the 2019 Western Balkans Summit in Poznan – Poznan, Poland
<b>Jul. 2019</b>	Think Tank Forum Poznan “Current achievements, future goals”, co-organized by the Center for European Studies from Warsaw, Poland and the Polish

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<sup>1</sup>Since 2016. The entries before 2016 are available upon request.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs as part of the 2019 Western Balkans Summit in Poznan – Poznan, Poland

**Mar. 2018**

The EU and the Western Balkans: towards greater credibility & engagement on both sides (conference), organized by European Policy Center (CEP) from Belgrade and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) – Belgrade, Serbia

**Jun. 2016 to Jul.2016**

International Summer School in Comparative Conflict Studies, organized by the Comparative Conflict Studies Institute at the Faculty of Media and Communication (Singidunum University) – Belgrade, Serbia

## **PANELS<sup>2</sup>**

**Oct. 2020**

Panelist at “The Europe We Want. The Europe We Need 2020” public discussion, organized by the Ministry of Federal, European and International Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Federal Republic of Germany (Online)

**Nov. 2019**

Panelist at the National Conference “Assesment of North Macedonia’s progress in the implementation of the public policies towards the Roma community”, “Integration of North Macedonia and the place of Roma on the country’s EU path” panel, organized by Romalitico Roma Policy Analysis – Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

**Oct. 2019**

Speaker at the Think Tank Roundtable Western Balkans and the Berlin Process – Way forward, organized by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the 2019 Western Balkans Summit in Poznan – Poznan, Republic of Poland

## **LECTURES**

**Jul. 2020**

Online lecture “Democracy in Divided Societies”, organized by the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy.

**Jan. 2020**

Guest lecturer for the course “Introduction to Politics, delivering a lecture on the topic Media and Politics: Balkan Twitter Bubble within the School of Political Science at the University American College

## **LANGUAGES**

**Mother tongues:** Macedonian and Serbian

<b>Other Languages</b>	<b>Level according to Common European Framework of Reference for Languages</b>
Albanian	B1 <sub>2</sub> (intermediate)
English	C2 (mastery or proficiency)
Italian	B2 (upper intermediate)
Turkish	A1 (breakthrough or beginner)

## **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Sep. 2021 to Sep. 2024**

Full scholarship and tuition fee waiver at the Central European University – Vienna, Austria

**Aug. 2019 to Sep. 2019**

Scholarship for participation at the European Forum Alpbach sponsored by the ERSTE Foundation – Vienna, Austria

**Jun. 2017**

Outstanding Academic Achievement award for the overall academic performance by the Central European University – Budapest, Hungary

<sup>2</sup>The list includes only the panels I was invited as a guest speaker to, that is, panels not organized by my current/past employers.

<b>Sep. 2016 to Jun. 2017</b>	Full Scholarship for academic excellence at the Central European University – Budapest, Hungary
<b>Jun. 2016 to Jul. 2016</b>	Scholarship for participation at the 2016 Center for Comparative Conflict Studies (CFCCS) Summer School - European Fund for the Balkans – Belgrade, Serbia
<b>Sep. 2015 to Jun. 2017</b>	Partial Scholarship and tuition fee waiver at the Central European University - Budapest, Hungary

## **PUBLICATIONS<sup>3</sup>**

### **Book chapters**

- Nechev and Nikolovski, 2020. “North Macedonia: A fertile ground for external influences” in Florian Bieber and Nikolaos Tzifakis (eds) [The Western Balkans in the World: Linkages and Relations with Non-Western Countries](#) pp. 126 – 145. Ashgate, Routledge
- Nechev and Nikolovski, 2019. “Conditionality in the Visa Liberalisation Process with Kosovo: Increased Specificity, Meticulous Scrutiny” in Armarkolas et al (eds) [Local and International Determinants of Kosovo's Statehood](#) pp. 299 – 320. Kosovo Foundation for Open Society

### **Research papers**

- Nechev and Nikolovski, 2021. [Balancing Values and Pragmatism: Ambiguous North Macedonia-China Relations in 2020](#) in [China's Engagement in Central and Eastern European Countries](#). Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy.
- Ghincea, Volintiru and Nikolovski, 2021. [Who Summons the Dragon? China's demand-driven influence in Central-Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans](#). Eastern Focus, Global Focus Center
- Nechev and Nikolovski, 2021. [After Prespa: External influences in North Macedonia](#) in [The strategic role of external actors in the Western Balkans](#) pp. 48-73. Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies and the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party
- Nikolovski and Kirchner, 2021. [Political Rollercoaster. An eventful year for North Macedonia on its EU path](#). Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje
- Nechev and Nikolovski, 2020. [Hustled into a dead end: the delusional belief in Chinese corrosive capital for the construction of North Macedonia's highways](#). Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje
- Nikolovski and Kirchner, 2020. [What now? The uncertainty of North Macedonia EU accession in 2019](#) Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje
- Nechev, Nikolovski and Kirchner, 2019. [Sailing through stormy weather – North Macedonia and the EU in 2018](#). Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje
- Nechev et al., 2018. [The European Union on the verge of bouncing back in Macedonia](#). Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje

### **Policy papers**

- Džananović et al., 2021. [The Actual Impact of Regional Organizations and Initiatives on Regional Cooperation/Integration and Good Neighborly Relations in the Western Balkans: Success and Limiting Factors](#) Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje
- Nikolovski, 2020. [Civil society organisations and North Macedonia's European integration: Towards strategic participation and transparent accession negotiations](#) Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje
- Kirchner, Nechev and Nikolovski. 2019. [Tweet Global, Connect \(Only\) Local? National Twitter Bubbles vs. European Interests in the Western Balkans](#) Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje
- Minić, Nechev and Nikolovski, 2019. [Regional cooperation in the Western Balkans – is there a civil society pillar?](#) Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" - Skopje

<sup>3</sup>The list includes only the most recent publications. A list of prior publications is available upon request.

Nikolovski, 2019. [Three Visions, One Goal? Credible Enlargement Perspective, Berlin Process and France's Strategy for the Western Balkans in Comparison.](#) Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje  
Nikolovski, 2018. [Macedonia's model of inclusion of CSOs in the accession negotiations.](#) Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje  
Nechev et al., 2018. [2018 Western Balkans Summit: 3 key takeaways from London.](#) Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje

### **Magazine articles**

Nikolovski and Nechev, 2021. [Fortifying 5G Networks in North Macedonia: The Need for Western Partners.](#) China Observers in Central and Eastern Europe (CHOICE)  
Nechev and Nikolovski, 2019. [The nationalisation of EU enlargement. North Macedonia after yet another 'no!'](#) Eastern Focus no. 3, Global Focus Center  
Nikolovski, 2019d. [Russia Still Has Cards to Play in North Macedonia.](#) Prague Security Studies Institute  
Nikolovski, 2019c. [Europe Must Speak with One Voice on North Macedonia.](#) Prague Security Studies Institute  
Nikolovski, 2019b. [EU Accession Will Challenge North Macedonia's China Deals.](#) Prague Security Studies Institute  
Nikolovski, 2019a. [Strains Emerge in North Macedonia's Alliance With Turkey.](#) Prague Security Studies Institute