



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



The Impact of Economic Crisis in Western Balkans: Implications for Politics, Innovation and Change

Roundtable discussion

Friday 12th February 2010

11am-1pm

Lee Jackson Room (8th floor)

EBRD (Main entrance), One Exchange Square, London EC2A 2JN

PROGRAMME

11.00 Welcome and introductions

11.10 Keynote remarks

Dr Oleg Levitin, Senior Political Counsellor, EBRD – Political implications of the economic crisis

Prof. Slavo Radošević, Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, UCL - Innovation, Research and Development

Open discussion

CEELBAS experts on the region:

Dr Bojan Aleksov (SSEES/UCL)

Dr Othon Anastasakis (University of Oxford)

Prof Judith Batt (CREES, University of Birmingham)

Dr Richard Connolly (CREES, University of Birmingham)

Prof Julian Cooper (CREES, University of Birmingham)

Dr Eric Gordy (SSEES/UCL)

Dr David Lane (University of Cambridge)

Alena Ledeneva (SSEES/UCL)

Dr Svetlana Makarova (SSEES/UCL)

Dr Zoran Milutinović, (SSEES/UCL)

Zlatko Nikoloski (SSEES/UCL)

Dr Eugene Nivorozhkin (SSEES/UCL)

EBRD experts from the Chief Economist's Office and Banking (relevant regional and sector teams)

13.15 – 14.00 Buffet lunch and informal discussion

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- **The impact on political situation in the Western Balkans**
- **The EU and Western Balkans**
- **Role of IFIs**
 - **Particular hi-tech sectors where the region is likely to develop a comparative advantage in the coming decade**
 - **How needs in innovation be best addressed, given the severe constraints on government spending?**
 - **How far do the countries of SEE lag in R&D behind countries in the EU, including the new member states that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007?**
 - **How important is education in promoting competitiveness, and where should resources be concentrated - in primary, secondary or tertiary (university) level?**
 - **To what extent is the region's infrastructure an obstacle to growth and competitiveness?**