

## Forum "China and the Western Balkans: Perspectives and Prospects in the New Era "

**Date** October 9th, 2023  
**Time** 10am - 2pm  
**Venue** Arka Hotel, Skopje  
**Organizers** Albanian Institute for Globalization Studies (AIGS) & Global Changes Center (GCC)

Time Activity

10:00 Opening/welcoming note GCC  
Opening/welcoming note AIGS

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Zhang Zuo, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of North Macedonia**

10:20 Brief break + group photo

10:30 **Panel 1 - China & the Western Balkans cooperation prospects and challenges**

*Enver Bytyci, Prof. Asc. Dr., History of Political Sciences, Albanian University*

**Why are relations between China and the Balkans also conditioned by Beijing's ties with Europe?**

*Misko Dzidrov, Prof. Dr., Vice-rector for teaching and students at Goce Delcev University-Stip (UGD)*

**China and Western Balkans - Cooperation perspectives and are we missing some of them**

*Tamara Jovanov, Professor, PhD in Economics, Goce Delchev University, Shtip*

**Creative transformation: Lessons from China**

*Biljana Vankovska, Prof. Dr., Head, Global Changes Center, Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje*

**The Western Balkans between rules based order and global governance system**

11:10 Discussions, questions & answers

11:20 Coffee break

11:30 **Panel 2 - Economics cooperation, perception & potential avenues for the future**

*Toni Mileski, Prof. Dr., IR and Geopolitics, Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje*

**China-Macedonian relations: 2022 survey overview**

*Orce Simov, Prof. Dr., Vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce of N. Macedonia*

**Exploring Potential Collaborations between Macedonia and China**

*Enriko Ceko, Dr. HExecutive Director, Albanian Center for Sustainable Development*

**The perspective of economic and trade relations between China and the Western Balkans**

*Marjan Nikolov, PhD in Economics, President of Center for Economic Analyses, Skopje*

**Current economic affairs of Western Balkan countries and investment potentials for China from the regional approach**

12:10 Discussions, questions & answers

12:20 Coffee break

12:30 **Panel 3 – Media, culture, and regional initiatives: shaping bilateral and multilateral cooperation**

*Dime Ratajkovski, Journalist, Macedonian TV, Skopje; alumni, Renmin University of China*

**Unveiling Perspectives: Macedonian Media and the Shifting Perception of China**

*Marjana Doda, Editor-in-chief, Argumentum*

**China and the Western Balkans, new perspectives for world of tomorrow**

*Igor Radev, PhD, Sinology Center of Knowledge, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Skopje*

**Maes Titianus – the first 'Macedonian' in China**

*Irina Andreevska, PhD Candidate, East China Normal University & Confucius Institute, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University*

**From Via Egnatia to the New Silk Road: Ancient connections, modern challenges**

*Adela Gjorgjioska, PhD, Director, Institute for Sustainable Prosperity*

**Silk Roads and Western Walls: China-Balkan Cooperation Amidst Global Power Play**

*Marsela Musabelliu, Dr., Executive Director, Albanian Institute for Globalization Studies*

**China-CEEC cooperation in the Western Balkans: the need to properly comprehend and advance it in the region**

13:30 Discussions, questions & answers

13:45 Concluding remarks/open floor (all participants can summarize or express expectations, ideas, recommendations, etc)

14:00 **Lunch**