

# SÜDOSTEUROPA

## Mitteilungen

01 | 2016

56. Jahrgang

01 | 2016

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*Thomas Brey*

Auch nach zwei Jahrzehnten:  
Keine Lösung für das Kosovo

*Islam Qerimi / Vebi Mujku*

The Situation of Repatriates in  
Kosovo and the Impact on Poverty

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Verwaltungsentwicklung und  
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# **SÜDOSTEUROPA**

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**Zeitschrift der Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft**

**Summaries Heft 01/2016 56. Jahrgang**

**Thomas Brey**

## **Two Decades Passed: Still No Solution for Kosovo**

The persistent Kosovo crisis is not moving toward compromise and resolution, but has for months been creeping toward a new escalation. Contributing to such volatility, opposition parties are blocking the Kosovo parliament with tear gas attacks, violence routinely accompanies street demonstrations, and progress remains elusive in talks the EU is brokering between Prishtina and Belgrade. Front lines run between the Kosovar government and the opposition, as well as between the Albanian majority and the Serb minority.

Now a desperate search is on for a mediator to impose control over the explosive situation. Without a solution, the international community can only continue to appeal for respect of democratic standards. While the eyes of the United States and the European Union are glued to crises in Ukraine, Middle East and Africa, the frozen conflict in Kosovo may again turn hot. If all attempts for compromise fail, could some tabooed solutions come into consideration?

**Islam Qerimi / Vebi Mujku**

## **The Situation of Repatriates in Kosovo and the Impact on Poverty**

The paper aims at assessing the level of reintegration of repatriated persons in the Kosovar society. We initially address the promotion of economic conditions followed by the social and political circumstances such repatriates are faced with. The analysis focuses on repatriated persons who left Kosovo before 28 July 2010. This date was set by the Government of Kosovo in its adoption of a Revised Strategy. The strategy covers repatriated persons who fled from Kosovo before the date, while the other persons leaving after that period are not covered by our contribution.

An important aspect of our study concerns the extent of direct influence of families and individuals repatriated in the period on deepening poverty in Kosovo. We specifically analyse the data related to their housing accommodation, food and hygiene packages, winter assistance, vocational training, health care package, employment, funding of business start-ups, language courses and catch-up classes. The paper also includes interviews with repatriated persons. We conclude with our own findings and recommendations.

**Dejan Milovac**

**Montenegro: Democratic Deficits Persist Instead of Progressing Euro-Atlantic Integration**

Montenegro, the small Balkan country, has for years been torn by widespread corruption. It is captured by long term political ruler Milo Djukanović and strong organized crime structures, blurring the line between the mafia and the government in numerous business deals. Ordinary citizens are left with a really bad deal. In 2016, Montenegro will face another parliamentary election that should give the answer to the long lasting question in the country: Is there enough political force to dismantle one of the last European dictators?

**Claudia Vollmer**

**Administrative Reform and EU Enlargement in the Example of Three Accession Candidates Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro**

Ensuring compliance with EU accession requirements in enlargement countries rests mainly on public administration. This requires a functioning administration with the potential to use its capacities. In reality, the administrations in countries wanting to access the EU are still influenced by old traditions and cannot easily switch their *modus operandi*.

For three neighboring Western Balkan countries – Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro – the relation between public administration development and the EU perspective guided the research. It became evident that the starting point as regards public administration in the three countries differs due to historical developments. In addition, the point of departure in these countries deviates from the ones in countries of the previous EU accession wave.

Nevertheless, the EU strategy for bringing enlargement countries closer to the EU remains, in principle, unchanged. Its effectiveness is limited as Public Administration Reform is not included in a separate chapter of the *Acquis communautaire*.

Interviewed experts suggest to re-think the EU approach and give higher priority to Public Administration Reform. A specific monitoring process seems to be inevitable for which a binding basis, such as an EU model of „Better Governance“, might be helpful.

**Victoria Stoiciu**

**The Romanian Autumn of 2013 and the Return of Politics  
Protest against Mining Projects and Fracking in Romania: Actors and Discourses**

In the autumn of 2013 the streets of 50 Romanian cities were taken over by thousands of people protesting against a draft law opening the way to a highly contested mining project in Roșia Montană, a village in western Romania. The draft law was not passed by parliament, but this was not the biggest achievement of collective action. The informal network of activists and citizens termed “#Unitisalvam” emerged as a result of the protests that continued to operate after street protests ended.

In the contribution, the context in which the street protests occurred as well as the main actors and their discourses are highlighted. The article focuses particularly on the self-proclaimed “apolitical” character of the protest and the community “#Unitisalvam”. It seeks to identify the reasons and meaning of this label which cannot be understood without analyzing the broader context of the democratic decline and lack of trust in politics in Romania.

Operating with the distinction between *le politique* and *la politique*, the author argues that post-communist politics in Romania is what Rancière called para-politics. The contribution further shows that the 2013 protests and the “#Unitisalvam” community are the premises for a return to “real politics” in Romania.

**Edvin Pacara**

### **Hydropower Plants as a Protest Issue in Albania**

The article discusses the case of riverine ecosystems’ destruction. It highlights societal issues that the planned building of 501 dams and Small Hydropower Plants (SHPs) will bring to the Albanian rivers and the communities that depend on these. It presents the most prominent cases that have generated resistance in local communities and from environmental NGOs in Albania.

The sheer amount of dams planned to be built is unsustainable for the Albanian environment. Moreover, numerous dams are being built in National Parks and Protected Areas.

The article discusses the wider implications that the damming of almost all rivers in Albania will have for the country and its seashores, based on previous dams built in Albanian rivers in the 1960s and 1970s.