Introduction

There is a considerable amount of credible evidence that inequalities in income and wealth are higher today than ever before. Disparities between the richest and the rest of the population have reached unprecedented levels. According to recent estimates, the world’s 85 richest people have the same wealth as the poorest 50 percent (3.5 billion people)\(^1\). Increasing inequalities across the globe have, in much of the world, gone hand in hand with increasing in-country inequalities. Disparities appear to be increasing across many domains of human welfare and well-being, including increasing inequalities of opportunity and reductions in social mobility across generations, as well as retrenchment in terms of gender inequalities in parts of the world.

Arguably, dramatic inequalities are ethically questionable in as much as it is difficult to justify the substantial fortunes of the wealthiest individuals in terms of their substantive contributions to societal welfare. There are many, more instrumental, reasons for concern. Although it can be argued that some inequality is an acceptable part of a structured reward system which stimulates effort, innovation and entrepreneurial initiative, beyond a certain threshold, inequality becomes harmful for the very functioning of a society. High inequality can harm economic growth, in terms of both its intensity and sustainability. High inequality translates into high levels of poverty and social exclusion, with the high social costs manifested, not least, in terms of a waste of significant human potential. In addition, high inequality can undermine public trust in democratic institutions, and contribute to political instability, whether in terms of populism and extremism, scapegoating of those who are different, or widespread social unrest. The social costs of high inequality can also be translated into poor health and educational outcomes, and a reduction in the well-being of a significant part of the population. Overall, there is a growing consensus that high and growing inequalities undermine the possibilities for sustainable development.

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Recent years have seen an increased interest in inequality with the work of economists such as Thomas Piketty, Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Paul Krugman reaching a wide audience and informing and stimulating public debate. The global economic and financial crisis and policy prescriptions based on the need for ‘austerity’ have contributed to this increased interest in inequality and in policies to reduce it. The Occupy movement protests not only mobilized ‘the 99%’ against ‘the 1%’ around the world but also testified to the importance of doing something about inequality to ordinary citizens. Austerity measures themselves, including cuts in public expenditures, aimed at the consolidation of fiscal deficits and repayment of large public debts, have had redistributive effects which have also, often, contributed to increased inequality. Social scientific interest in understanding and measuring diverse forms of inequality across time and space has grown apace. As inequality in its varied forms and dimensions has started to feature more prominently on the policy agendas of national governments and international organizations, there is an increased demand for timely, reliable and informative studies which can inform policy choices.

**Nature and justification for the conference**

Most of the research on inequality has so far been undertaken in developed Northern and Western countries (old EU members, OECD member states) and, to an extent, in developing countries. New evidence, especially on the distributional effects of the recent economic crisis and of policy responses, is mainly confined to the more developed world. Much less is known about post-communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, including those in Southeast Europe. There was very little social scientific and policy interest in distributional issues such as inequality and poverty in post-communist countries in the early years of transition, although a general picture emerges of a dramatic increase in inequality and poverty, in the context of an overall decline in standards of living, in the 1990s, in a period of transition, conflict and large-scale forced migration. Although there is a general sense that since the economic and financial crisis which began in 2008, social and economic inequalities within and between countries have become more pronounced, there is a lack of reliable evidence. Analyses of inequalities in the region remain hindered by the lack of reliable data. These gaps take on an increasing importance in terms of developing indicators to assess progress regarding the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals which are the focus of international discussion and which, currently, include commitments to “reduce inequality within and among countries” (Goal 10), “end poverty in all its forms everywhere” (Goal 1), and “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” (Goal 5)².

This conference, building on the wider regional ‘Dialogue on Inequalities’ hosted by the UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS in Istanbul in January 2015, turns the spotlight on Inequalities in South East Europe, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244 (1999)), The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. The main focus, reflected in the sub-title of the conference, is to take stock of what we know and what we do not know, and to move forward in terms of research agendas to deepen our understanding of distributional and mobility issues in South East Europe. Through an invited keynote presentation and through papers from invited researchers and experts from the region, the conference will address a range of key topics in terms of measuring, understanding and researching inequality in South East Europe.

The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Branko Milanović from the Luxembourg Income Study Center at the City University of New York, a leading world scholar on income distribution, who has done some of the seminal work on inequality both at the global level and in transition countries. The keynote will assess the past, present and future of inequality research, addressing issues of both methodology and substance from a global perspective. Invited researchers from each of the countries in the region will present papers which will address an inequality-related topic focusing on their own countries or more widely on the region as a whole. In addition to presenting research findings, through papers which will build the evidence base, participants will explore together future research agendas. Given the scarcity of the existing substantive evidence, and the need for more research in the future, the conference will deal with methodological challenges and data availability.

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assess a range of indicators of inequality, and make recommendations for the building of research capacity within the region.

**Studying Inequalities**

A starting point, methodologically, is that standard ‘single number’ measures of inequality, such as the Gini, Theil or Atkinson index may be a necessary but not sufficient starting point for understanding inequality. Trends in inequalities over time need to be complemented by decomposing inequality indices and temporal changes, analysing the respective contributions of different income sources or different socio-economic groups to overall inequality. Depending on the type of data at hand, analytical tools such as inequality dominance analysis, comparing two income distributions in a more ‘normatively robust’ way, can also be used. Recently developed methods allow for the decomposition of differences (or changes, in inter-temporal applications) between two income distributions into the respective contributions of differences (or changes) in observable characteristics (demographic and socio-economic) and other unobservable factors between the two populations being compared. Such decompositions may provide insights into the possible structural causes (or at least correlates) of observed inequality differences or temporal changes. Combined with a plausible theory of the underlying mechanisms at work, the results may serve as ex post or ex ante policy evaluations. Individual welfare and well-being needs to be considered as multidimensional, encompassing more than income or wealth alone. The conference will address the state of the art regarding multi-dimensional non-income inequalities, including health, education, human development, social exclusion, gender development, and quality of life. Of course, the connections between inequality and poverty, and the importance of a multi-dimensional understanding of poverty, will also be in focus.

For quality research on inequality, good individual-level income data is a necessary prerequisite. Such data comes, broadly speaking, from two sources. One source is from household surveys with information on incomes from different sources, consumption expenditures and personal/household demographic/socio-economic characteristics. Such data are commonly used for research on inequality. The conference participants will discuss the availability and reliability of such data in their countries. Given that both income and consumption expenditures can be used for measuring individual material welfare, and given that the choice between the two makes a difference in inequality measurement, the question is which of them to use. When both are available, the answer generally depends on the relative reliability of income and consumption data, as well as on which is used in other comparable countries. Whether income or consumption is used, the resulting inequality measures are uni-dimensional and may fail to capture inequality in other relevant, non-material, dimensions. In this regard, the conference will address to what extent the available survey data for the countries concerned contain sufficient information for a reliable and robust multi-dimensional inequality assessment.

The second source of data is from administrative records, usually from the national tax authorities. Compared to household survey data, tax record data are more accurate as they in principle do not suffer from underreporting of income and cover all individual taxpayers. These data have so far been used mainly in developed Western countries. The possibilities for obtaining such data in SEE countries, including legal obstacles, will be discussed. The participants will also discuss the availability of wealth data, which can complement usual measures of individual material welfare, such as income and consumption expenditures, and thus give a fuller picture of inequality. Finally, an important issue to be discussed regarding data is their cross-country and temporal comparability. Data from different countries, whether survey-based or administrative, may be sufficiently different to be incomparable, rendering results based on these data incomparable as well. The comparability issue is important in terms of cross-country and regional comparisons. As there may be various changes, more or less significant, over time in methodologies of data collection, similar comparability issues may arise in inter-temporal applications for a given country as well. The conference will attempt to translate discussion on data availability, gaps and comparability into recommendations for improvements in data collection and availability for research purposes.
Building Research Capacity

An important aim of the conference is to address existing research capacity for studying inequality in the region and to make recommendations for strengthening this capacity in the future, through networking, joint research applications, and specific training and capacity building events. It is important that researchers on inequality in South East Europe are able to develop regional networks and play a full role in wider European and global networks. The conference is one step towards strengthening the connections between researchers from universities, research institutes, and think tanks from within the region. In addition, striking the appropriate balance between short-term, project-based research and longer-term research, as well as how to make research policy-relevant and user-friendly, are important issues. As a new Member State, Croatia is well placed to advocate for the use of EU and international development funds to strengthen research capacity on this important theme.

Producing and Disseminating Knowledge

Papers from the conference will be considered for a special issue of the journal Croatian Economic Survey. In addition, the papers may inform work on a UNDP Regional Human Development Report on the topic of Inequality. Following the conference, a Conference Report will provide a state of the art overview of existing research on inequality and other related distributional topics, including poverty, in the SEE region. The overview will be based on research published in domestic and international peer-reviewed journals, research commissioned by international organizations including UNDP and the World Bank, and, wherever possible, grey literature. In addition to providing a comprehensive overview of evidence from the existing literature, the report will identify gaps in knowledge which remain to be filled in future work, thus providing a tentative research agenda. The conference will achieve a high profile through the use of social media including Twitter, Facebook and blogs. The conference will be open to invited researchers, policy makers, staff of international organisations and others with an interest in the topic. The conference will be limited, however, to a maximum of thirty five participants to ensure quality discussion, debate and dialogue.

## Draft Conference Programme (subject to change)

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08.30 – 09.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00 – 09.30</td>
<td><strong>Welcome</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dubravka Jurlina-Alibegović, Director, The Institute of Economics&lt;br&gt;Rastislav Vrbensky, Manager, Istanbul Regional Hub, UNDP</td>
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<td>09.30 – 11.00</td>
<td><strong>Keynote address – Public Lecture</strong>&lt;br&gt;Branko Milanović ‘Global Income Inequality: current trends and their political implications’&lt;br&gt;Chair: Ben Slay&lt;br&gt;Questions and Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 – 11.45</td>
<td>Coffee&lt;br&gt;Press Conference (II floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.45 – 13.15</td>
<td><strong>Introductory Remarks:</strong> Ben Slay&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Panel 1**&lt;br&gt;Gorana Krstić ‘Income Inequality in Serbia’&lt;br&gt;Nermin Oruc ‘Wage Inequality in Bosnia-Herzegovina’&lt;br&gt;Ivica Rubli ‘Distributional Impact of Growth in Good and Bad Times: Croatia’&lt;br&gt;Discussant: Danijel Nestić&lt;br&gt;Chair: Paul Stubbs&lt;br&gt;General Discussion</td>
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<td>13.15 – 14.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14.00 – 15.30</td>
<td><strong>Panel 2:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Milijana Komar ‘Inequality in Montenegro: overview of measures and methodologies’&lt;br&gt;Branimir Jovanović ‘Is There a Kuznets Curve in Southeast Europe?’&lt;br&gt;Juna Miluka ‘Determinants of Women’s Labour Force Participation in Albania’&lt;br&gt;Discussant: Ivo Bićanić&lt;br&gt;Chair: Louisa Vinton&lt;br&gt;General Discussion</td>
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<td>15.30 – 15.45</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<td>15.45 – 16.45</td>
<td><strong>Panel 3:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Erëblina Elezaj ‘The Impact of Remittances on Poverty and Inequality in Kosovo’&lt;br&gt;Bengi Akbulut ‘An Agenda for Understanding Environmental Inequality in Turkey’&lt;br&gt;Discussant: Paul Stubbs&lt;br&gt;Chair: Louisa Vinton&lt;br&gt;General Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.45 – 17.15</td>
<td><strong>Conclusions and Next Steps</strong>&lt;br&gt;General Discussion&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Closing Remarks:** Ben Slay</td>
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Abstracts

Keynote

Branko Milanović: Global Income Inequality: current trends and their political implications

The last quarter century of globalization has witnessed the largest reshuffle of global incomes since the Industrial revolution. The main factor behind the "reshuffle" was the rise of China, and to a slightly lesser extent, of all Asia. This drove the global Gini index down, by about 2 points over the twenty-year period, 1988-2008 for which we have a new panel database of country/deciles from almost 100 countries. By tracking the evolution of individual country-deciles and deriving the global Growth Incidence Curve we are able to show the underlying elements that drove the changes. Three changes stand out.

First, China has graduated from the bottom ranks, modifying the overall shape of the global income distribution in the process and creating an important global “median” class that has transformed a twin-peaked 1988 global distribution into a single-peaked one now. The “winners” were country-deciles that in 1988 were around the median of the global income distribution, 90% of whom in terms of population are from Asia. Second, the “losers” were the country-deciles that in 1988 were around the 85th percentile (that is, relatively high) of the global income distribution. Almost 90% of them are from OECD economies. Third, another “winner” was the global top 1% whose incomes, even if underestimated by household surveys, rose substantially.

These three changes open up the following three political issues: how to manage the rising expectations of meaningful political participations in emerging countries like China, how to "placate" the rich countries' globalization losers so that they do not turn away from globalization and support populist anti-immigrant policies, and how to constraint the rising economic and political power of the global top 1%.
Panel 1

Gorana Krstić: Income Inequality in Serbia
Income inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, has significantly increased in Serbia over the period of economic crisis reaching the value of 38.7 in 2013 according to the latest 2014 SILC data. Income inequality in Serbia is among the highest in Southeast Europe, and higher than in EU countries with the highest inequality, such as Latvia (35.7), Spain (35) and Portugal (34.5). This paper summarizes the state of existing knowledge about inequality in Serbia, highlighting the issues of comparability in measurement of income inequality based on different data sources (HBS 2006-2010 and SILC 2013-2014). It also examines factors that have contributed to high (and rising) inequality such as: high proportion of people (aged up to 60) living in households with very low or low work intensity, high proportion of people working in informal employment, low level of social transfers and the almost non-existing progressive taxation of higher incomes. The paper also attempts to analyze the contribution of different income sources to overall income inequality.

Nermin Oruc and Dzelila Kramer: Wage Inequality in Bosnia-Herzegovina – comparing survey and income tax data
This paper compares inequality measures from two different sources: the BiH Household Budget Survey (HBS) and administrative tax record data from 2009 and 2011. The HBS data were first adjusted to make them comparable to tax records data. Second, different measures were used to compute and compare inequality levels and trends in both data sources. Then, the progressivity and redistributive effect of the personal income tax burden in the two data sets were also analysed. Finally, differences in the level of inequality obtained from the two datasets and possible sources of such a difference are discussed.

Ivica Rubil: Distributional Impact of Growth in Good and Bad Times: evidence from Croatia before and during the Great Recession
Economic growth, be it positive or negative, over a certain period may not necessarily affect the whole population in the same way, as the growth rates at different parts of the distribution of living standard may differ. If the living standard of the relatively worse off rises (or falls) by less (or more) than that of the relatively better off, the distributional impact will be regressive (or progressive) and relative inequality will increase (or fall) during the observed period. Using household micro-data for Croatia, we study the distributional impact of growth before the recent recession (2000-2008) and of the fall during the first three years of the recession (2000-2011). In particular, we estimate the growth rates of incomes along the whole distribution and assess whether the growth pattern was progressive, regressive or neutral. The analysis is performed using the so-called growth incidence curve (GIC), which shows growth rates at all quantiles of the income distribution, whose informational content is used to explore the changes in a number of social welfare functions. In order to account for the observed growth pattern, the GICs are decomposed into the contributions of changes in the distribution of household characteristics and changes in their marginal impact on households' incomes.
Panel 2

Milijana Komar: Inequality in Montenegro – overview of measures and methodologies

As is the general trend in most post-communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe, in the 1990s, Montenegro’s transition was characterized by a significant increase in inequality and poverty, in the context of an overall decline in standards of living. Since then, due to a lack of reliable data, there is still no credible and quality analysis of inequalities in the region. Having in mind that inequality in its various forms has started to appear more prominently on the policy agendas of national governments and international organizations, there is an increased demand for reliable and informative studies which can be used by policy makers. This paper presents an overview of existing research on inequality and other related topics, including poverty, in Montenegro, utilizing research and analysis produced by government and international organizations. Specifically, the paper summarizes existing studies of the various forms and dimensions of inequality, examines the availability of reliable data necessary to conduct equality research on inequality and identifies gaps in terms of developing indicators for measuring inequality in Montenegro. The paper focuses on studies on income and non-income inequalities, including health, education, human development, social exclusion, gender-based inequalities, and quality of life. Given the scarcity of existing evidence, the paper concentrates on methodological challenges and data availability, assessing a range of indicators of inequality, and making recommendations for improvements in data collection and its availability for research purposes.

Branimir Jovanović: Is There a Kuznets Curve in Southeast Europe?

This paper investigates the relationship between economic growth and income inequality in the Southeast-European countries. The analysis is done using panel econometric techniques. Special attention is given to identifying the conditions under which growth increases or decreases inequality, such as the tax system, social transfers, labour market institutions, the threat of social unrest, and so on. The findings will be useful both for academics and policymakers. They will contribute to existing literature on the Kuznets curve and will help policymakers in the ex-socialist countries design a system that will lead to a more equitable and more sustainable growth.

Juna Miluka and Reiko Tsushima: Determinants of women’s labor force participation and economic empowerment in Albania

The importance of increasing women’s participation in the labour market has begun to take center stage in many European countries, as low participation and lower lifetime accumulation of work related benefits are linked to the feminization of poverty in old age. There is also mounting concern over the declining labour supply in the face of population decline, reduced fertility rate and international out-migration. Albania is no exception in this regard. The purpose of this paper is to analyze in-depth women’s labour force participation in Albania estimating determinants of female labor force participation and distinguishing between urban and rural areas. It also estimates a model of enrollment for secondary education to determine the impact of household female labor force participation on secondary school enrollments. The study shows that education, uninterrupted work experiences, social support and infrastructure are crucial factors determining female labor force participation. The overall results hide interesting differences between rural and urban areas. Rural women face a double challenge vis-à-vis men and their urban counterparts. Lastly, having a female member in the household who participates in the labour market is a very important determinant of school enrollment, especially for girls of the household.
Erëblina Elazaj: The Impact of Remittances on Poverty and Inequality – the case of Kosovo.*

Migration has been a common means for people from developing countries to secure survival for themselves and their families during the last decades. With the highest poverty and unemployment rates in the region, Kosovo has followed suit. Ranked among the 20 largest remittance recipients in the world, Kosovo’s economy is heavily dependent on them: remittances comprise more than 15% of the country’s GDP, they are the third main source of income for households and directly support more than a quarter of them. This paper examines the impact of remittances on poverty and inequality in Kosovo. Using HBS data, it finds that remittances have more of a poverty-reduction effect rather than increasing income inequality because they reach some of the poorest households, especially in the rural areas. In Kosovo they have been alleviating poverty by increasing recipient households’ income and consumption. However, the tightening of immigration policies in Western European countries and the changing structure of existing and new migrants may pose serious challenges to Kosovo’s economy and social protection system in the future.


Bengi Akbulut: Unequal Natures: An Agenda for Understanding Environmental Inequality

Although environmental quality is often paid lip service as a fundamental axis of sustainable development, efforts to capture it via existing measures of inequality remain inadequate at best. This is in part due to the fact that dimensions of environmental quality that are pertinent for human welfare cannot be easily translated into income-based indicators, on the one hand, and that environmental quality is often difficult to disentangle in terms of its implications for socio-economic inequality, on the other. Environmental quality emerges as a crucial dimension of inequality especially within the context of Turkey given the regime of economic development mobilized in the country within the last decade. The ascent of energy and construction sectors as developmental engines, both of which are infamous with their detrimental environmental impacts, was perhaps this regime’s most visible markers. Unsurprisingly, the last decade has witnessed accelerated processes of expropriation of the commons, on the one hand, and an intensified environmental degradation and pollution, on the other. These processes have implied an uneven distribution of environmental cost and benefits, with often inequality-perpetuating effects. The present paper will aim to first delineate the different dynamics of inequality that such a developmental regime implies and demonstrate the ways in which they have been shouldered by the poorest and the most marginalized. The eradication of access to services and goods attached to common pool resources and exposure to environmental pollution will especially be focused on. The paper will then set out to examine possible tools and methods that can capture environmental inequalities, with a special focus on spatial analysis and mapping methods. In doing so, the paper hopes to contribute to a multi-dimensional and pluralistic study of inequality.
Short Biographies

Bengi Akbulut is a political economist based in Istanbul, Turkey, currently working as an independent researcher. She is a member of the Political Ecology Working Group and the Ecology Collective. She received her B.A. from Bogazici University, Istanbul (2004) and her PhD from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (2011), both in economics. She then spent a year as a postdoctoral researcher at the School of Environment and Development at the University of Manchester. Her work focuses broadly on the political economy of development, including issues of political ecology, agrarian and environmental change, state-society relationships, non-capitalist economies, social and environmental movements, and gender and household work. Her joint and independent work has appeared in the Cambridge Journal of Economics, Development and Change and the Journal of Peasant Studies among others.

Ivo Bičanić currently teaches Macroeconomics, Growth Models and Political Economy of Growth at the University of Zagreb. He has also taught courses at the University of Zurich and the Central European University in Budapest and is a former Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson Center at Washington and Senior Associate Fellow of St. Antony’s College, Oxford. His research interests and publications focus on topics in economic history, growth theory, economic transition and economic inequality. His current research includes wage inequality and differentials, economic convergence and the political economy of state failure.

Erëblina Elezaj holds a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands. She has been working as a Research Analyst for the UNDP office in Kosovo* during the past three and a half years and has previously worked for the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre as a social policy consultant. Her main research interests include: social policies and programmes, poverty, migration and remittances, labour, and gender issues.

*B Under UNSCR 1244 (1999)

Branimir Jovanović is an economic researcher, who is joining the University of Turin in September 2015. He has a PhD in economics from the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”. Between 2007 and 2015 he was in the research department of the National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia. He has published papers on monetary policy, exchange rates, forecasting, financial crises, and so on, but his main current research interests lie in poverty and inequality.

Milijana Komar is currently Head of Risk Management Department at Zapad banka AD Podgorica, Montenegro. She holds an MSc in Economics for Business Analysis from Staffordshire University, UK. She also works as an independent researcher and has been involved in a number of projects that include quantitative and qualitative analysis of aspects of the Montenegro’s economy. In 2010 she was one of the authors of the study Competitiveness of the Montenegrin Economy that was a part of the Capacity Development Programme, a partnership between the Government of Montenegro, the Open Society Institute and UNDP, within a project entitled “Strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Finance to efficiently plan, analyze and manage public finances”. She has also been engaged as a Contributor to the National Human Development Report 2013: People are the real wealth of the country. How rich is Montenegro?, implemented by the UNDP Office in Montenegro.

Gorana Krstić was born in 1967 in Belgrade. She is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade. She obtained her PhD in Economics at the School of Social Sciences, Sussex University in 2002. Her main research interests are labour markets, the informal economy, poverty and social policy. She has published and edited 16 monographs in these fields and has had more than 40 articles published in both national and international journals. She has been consulting short- and long-term for leading international agencies (World Bank, UNDP, ILO, EU and USAID). She has participated in a number of conferences and workshops in Serbia and abroad.
Branko Milanović is currently Presidential Professor at the Graduate Center City University of New York and Senior Fellow of the Luxembourg Income Study. He obtained his PhD in economics at the University of Belgrade with a dissertation on income inequality in Yugoslavia. He was lead economist in the World Bank Research Department for almost 20 years and a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington (2003-2005). He held teaching appointments at the University of Maryland (2007-2013) and the School for Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University (1997-2007). Milanović’s main area of work is income inequality in individual countries and globally. He has published a number of articles on methodology and empirics of global income distribution and effects of globalization (Economic Journal, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of Political Philosophy, and so on). His most recent book The Haves and the Have-nots: A Brief and Idiosyncratic History of Global Inequality, was published in 2011, translated into seven languages, and selected by The Globalist as 2011 Book of the Year.

Juna Miluka holds a PhD in economics from American University, Washington, DC. She is an assistant professor of Economics and Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of New York, Tirana. She has extensive experience working as a consultant with many international organizations conducting research on issues such as the labor market, poverty, vulnerability, agriculture, education, migration, and so on. Dr. Miluka is an expert in economic research, development, as well as on gender issues. Working as an international consultant for the World Bank and the Millennium Challenge Corporation in Washington, DC, has given her experience in poverty assessment work and rural development. As a consultant for the Millennium Challenge Corporation she has conducted a gender assessment of Moldovan farmers using farm survey data. She has also worked as a national consultant for UNWOMEN on issues of women’s economic empowerment, including issues of employment, poverty, entrepreneurship, and health. In addition, she has also estimated the 2008 gender wage gap by region in Albania, and the different sources that account for such disparity. Her studies have been published in prestigious international academic journals, and she also has a book chapter on the gender wage gap in Albania.

Danijel Nestić is a Research Fellow in the Institute of Economics, Zagreb. He obtained his PhD in economics at the University of Zagreb in 2002 with a dissertation on income inequality in Croatia. His research interests include poverty, inequality and wage policy. Specialist themes include the minimum wage, the gender wage gap, industrial relations and pensions. He is also engaged in short-term macroeconomic forecasting for Croatia.

Nermin Oruc holds a PhD degree in Economics from Staffordshire University, UK. He is currently employed at the International University of Sarajevo, where he teaches Econometrics, Statistics, Research Methods, Economic Development and Labour Economics. Also, he is founder and President (2010-2014) of the Centre for Economic Development and Research, Sarajevo. His research interests include migration, remittances, poverty and inequality, labour markets, and rural development. Nermin is Career Integration Fellow at the CERGE-EI for the period 2012-2015, and was InGRID visiting fellow at ISER/University of Essex in February 2015. He is also a member of the LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion in the Western Balkans.

Ivica Rubil is a postdoctoral researcher in The Institute of Economics, Zagreb. He holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Zagreb, where he recently defended a dissertation on the impact of the distributional pattern of economic growth on poverty in transition countries. His research interests lie broadly in the areas of empirical welfare and labor economics, with particular emphasis on the distributional impact of public policies and various economic phenomena, socio-economic inequality in health and measurement of multidimensional well-being. His current work is focused on the impact of the Great Recession on multidimensional well-being, overall and at-work, across the European Union.
**Ben Slay** is a senior advisor in UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (RBEC) having previously been UNDP’s poverty reduction practice leader for the region, senior advisor on sustainable development with UNDP’s Bureau for Development Policy, RBEC’s senior economist, and director of UNDP’s Bratislava Regional Centre. His publications include: *The Polish Economy: Crisis, Reform, and Transformation* (Princeton University Press, 1994); *Demonopolization and Competition Policy in Post-Communist Economies* (Westview Press, 1996); and the co-edited volume *Beyond Transition: Development Perspectives and Dilemmas* (Ashgate Publishers, 2004). Before coming to UNDP, Dr. Slay worked as a senior economist for PlanEcon Inc., a Washington D.C.-based international economics consultancy. Dr. Slay has held academic positions at a number of universities in the United States, including Georgetown University and Middlebury College. He holds doctoral and masters degrees in Economics and Russian and East European Studies from Indiana University, and an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of California.

**Paul Stubbs** is a UK-born sociologist who is a Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of Economics, Zagreb. His main research focus is on social policy, social protection and social inclusion at global, regional and national scales. He is co-editor (with Bob Deacon) of *Social Policy and International Interventions in South East Europe* (Edward Elgar, 2007) and co-editor (with Alexandra Kaasch) of *Transformations in Global and Regional Social Policies* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). He is a member of the European Social Policy Network advising the European Commission on aspects of social policy and social investment in Croatia. He also contributed to the Regional Human Development Report *Beyond Transition: towards Inclusive Societies* (UNDP Regional Bureau for CEE/CIS, 2011).

/As at 31 August 2015/