

# MIGREC

## Migration, Integration and Governance Research Centre



# Coronavirus Global Response

#UnitedAgainstCoronavirus \* #StrongerTogether \* #GlobalResponse

## Impact of COVID-19 on migration in Serbia

Danica Šantić and Marija Antić, MIGREC team members, published a paper titled "Serbia in the time of COVID 19: between 'corona diplomacy', tough measures and migration management" in the scientific journal "Eurasian Geography and Economics".

The authors analyze the specificities of Serbia's response to coronavirus. Two most important issues during the pandemic were the role of the state and the management of migration flows. Serbia's placement in the China–Russia–EU triangle shaped its response on the crises but also the image of the country in the world. The "iron friendship" with China and traditional relations with Russia manifested themselves in immediate humanitarian aid. On the other hand, while the financial package from the EU was of significantly higher value, it failed to make a strong impression on public opinion.

Two phenomena shaped mobility patterns. Citizens returning from abroad were caught between accusations of spreading the virus and a plea for healthcare and other key workers from the Serbian diaspora to help in Serbia.

The issue of refugees and migrants attracted significant amounts of positive public attention, but in parallel with that xenophobia arose as a new attitude as a part of aggressive campaigns against them. How the country will cope with the large number of returnees and increasing number of refugees and migrants taking the Balkan Route in conditions of closed borders, economic downturn and prejudice and intolerance, remain extant dilemmas with no certain answer.

You can download the paper at the following link:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15387216.2020.1780457>



Danica Šantić is an Associate Professor at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Geography, Department of Human Geography where she gives lectures on the migration issues, population geography, theory and methodology in population research, demographic characteristics of the European Union and the world, at the levels of under-graduate, Master and PhD studies.



Marija Antić is an Associate professor at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Geography, Department of Human Geography, where she gives lectures on the antropogeography, geography of settlements and geography of rural development and rural restructuring at the levels of under-graduate, Master and PhD studies.



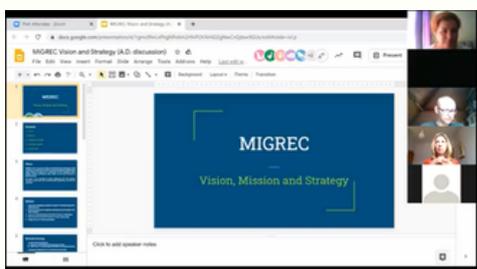
# Project activities online

Due to COVID-19, MIGREC team transferred all of its current activities online. In the activities of designing and developing MIGREC's vision, mission and research strategy, MIGREC team members were joined by its Task Force and Advisory Board.

Task Force included Miroslava Jelačić Kojić from Group 484 (Belgrade, Serbia), Sanja Klempić Bogadi from the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (Zagreb, Croatia), Uroš Škerl Kramberger from Dnevnik newspaper (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Zoran Ilievski from the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus" at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje (Skopje, North Macedonia), Julija Sardelić from the Victoria University of Wellington (Wellington, New Zealand) and Nermin Oruč from the Western Balkans Migration Network (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina).



Advisory Board included Prof. Dr. Tanja Miščević, Chief Negotiator for EU Accession, Republic of Serbia, Mr. Ivan Vejvoda, Permanent Fellow at Vienna Institute for Human Sciences, Austria, Mr. Dušan Reljić, Head of the Brussels office of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin, Germany and a Research Associate in the research division "EU External Relations", Prof. Dr. Izabela Grabowska, a Professor at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, Poland, Prof. Dr. Russell King, a Professor at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom and Mr. Ivan Gerginov, Assistant Commissioner for Refugees and Migration, Republic of Serbia.



The South-East European Research Centre (SEERC) is a research centre of the International Faculty of the University of Sheffield-CITY College, established as a non-profit, legal entity in Thessaloniki, Greece in 2003. It is conducting multidisciplinary research in the fields of Enterprise, Innovation & Development, Information & Communication Technologies, and Society & Human Development. SEERC's mission is to support the stable and smooth development of South-East Europe by conducting pure and applied research throughout and for the region. To accomplish this, SEERC employs existing research capacities of both the University of Sheffield and CITY College by facilitating collaboration between research staff, and by developing multi-disciplinary networks of researchers across South-East Europe.

In the context of the contemporary migration related issues in the region, SEERC has developed an interest in migration studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. The Centre organizes summer schools on different aspects of migration and integration, it successfully implements related EU funded and international projects and, as a founding member of the MIGRATE migration network, it participates in the European dialogue for migration in the region. In the following years, the Centre will continue to promote academic excellence and to pursue a broad engagement with the field of migration in Southeast Europe.

You can see the Project team members at the project web-site under <http://migrec.fpn.bg.ac.rs/about/meet-the-team/>

Follow us



<http://migrec.fpn.bg.ac.rs/>