

GREECE, THE WESTERN BALKANS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Washington, DC)

Date: November 30-December 2,
2007.

Location: Thessaloniki, Greece.

Organizer: East European Studies
The Woodrow Wilson International
Center for Scholars
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Deadline for submission:
October 1, 2007.

Proposals should be 500 words in
length and must be accompanied by
a CV. Please send proposals by email
to: nida.gelazis@wilsoncenter.org
Proposal selection will be completed
by mid-October 2007.

First draft papers will be due
November 19, 2007, in time for
distribution to all conference
participants.

Proposal Guidelines:
Proposals should be 500 words,
accompanied by a CV
Articles should be 5,000-8,000
words.
Citations should be formatted to
the author-date system outlined in
The Chicago Manual of Style.
All formatting and grammar should
follow The Chicago Manual of Style.

Homepage:
<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ees>

The East European Studies program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars invites you to respond to the following Call for Papers, for a Niarchos Foundation-sponsored project on *Greece, the Western Balkans and the European Union*. A seminar will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece November 30-December 2, 2007.

The recent successful accession of 10 postcommunist member states into the European Union is perceived as evidence that the EU is better able than any other international entity to stabilize and reform the Western Balkans. At the same time, however, the countries of this region are clearly distinct from other postcommunist states in ways that may undermine the European integration policy such as state weakness, economic underdevelopment and widespread corruption. Moreover, recent academic literature on the EU accession process has revealed gaps in the EU's capacity to address the problems of democratic consolidation, civil society development and minority rights protection. In the post-war countries of the former Yugoslavia, these issues cannot be addressed without international support. In order for EU and NATO accession to help pull the region out of its current stagnation, the international community will need to come up with new, complex strategies to adapt the accession process to the specific needs of this region.

The call for papers seeks to spur scholars and practitioners to consider ways in which to introduce innovative thinking on how to use EU and NATO conditionality to address the unique problems in the Western Balkans.

Sample problems/questions include:

1. Some countries of Southeast Europe do not show as much enthusiasm for European integration as countries involved in earlier waves of enlargement (such as the Baltic States). How can this be addressed by the international community?
2. Can certain parts of the *acquis communautaire* be made to do 'double duty.' E.g., can the chapters on education be geared toward promoting ethnic integration in Bosnia? Can European Regional policy offer solutions for Serbs in Kosovo?
3. The accession process to the Western Balkans would seem to require an additional layer of adequate policy tools to address the specific problems in the region. What types of tools could be used? How would they be employed and by whom?
4. What special role can be played by neighboring states, such as Greece, in bringing this region into the European fold? What insights might be offered by recent EU accession countries that might offer lessons to the countries of the Western Balkans?

The papers resulting from the project will be reviewed, edited and published as conference proceedings and distributed to a wide audience. The publication will be presented at a public event at the Wilson Center, which would allow select research project participants to present their findings to the wider Washington DC policy community. In this way, we hope that conclusions and recommendations gleaned from the program will have the greatest impact possible.