

International Scientific Conference

**THE CHANGING MIGRATION IN THE BALKANS**

16 April 2026 (Thursday) / 13:00 – 17:30 EET (Sofia Time)  
Hybrid (online & in person at “Aksakov” str. № 3, Sofia, Bulgaria)  
Working language: English

**AGENDA**

13:00 – 13:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p>Welcome remarks by Economic Research Institute at BAS</p> <p>Welcome remarks and presentation of the conference objectives by Prof. Dr. <b>Daniela Bobeva</b>, Chair of the Conference Committee</p> <p>Special Guest Prof. Dr. <b>Guidrun Biffli</b>, Honour by the Danube University Krems, Award by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Golden Award of Merit by the President of the Republic of Austria for Special Services to the Republic of Austria</p>
13:30 – 14:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>National Reports: Migration Profiles and Developments in the Balkan States – Part 1</b> <i>Country presentations (approx. 15 minutes each)</i></p> <p><i>“From emigration to immigration country. The case of <b>Bulgaria</b>”</i> – Prof. Dr. Daniela Bobeva &amp; Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Atanas Pavlov, Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences</p> <p><i>“Between Borders: <b>Türkiye’s</b> Triple Role in Europe’s International Migration Regime”</i> – Prof. Dr. Ahmet İçduygu, Director, MiReKoc, Koç University, Türkiye</p> <p><i>“Migration Faultlines in <b>Romania</b>: Demographic Decline, Labour Mobility and Geopolitical Pressures”</i> – Dr. Mihaela Matey, Head of Unit Research department, Novapolis</p> <p><i>“Integration of Migrant Workers in <b>Serbia</b>: Conceptual Gaps and Policy Challenges”</i> – Prof. Danica Šantić, University of Belgrade – Faculty of Geography &amp; Prof. Natalija Perisic, University of Belgrade – Faculty of Political Science</p>
14.30 - 15:00	<b>Discussion</b>
15:00–15:30	BREAK
15:30 – 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>National Reports: Migration Profiles and Developments in the Balkan States – Part 2</b> <i>Country presentations (approx. 15 minutes each)</i></p> <p><i>“Current Migration Trends in <b>Albania</b>: From Mass Emigration to Selective Migration”</i> – Dr. Ilir Gedeshi, Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)</p> <p><i>“Migration, Demographic Transition, and Economic Performance: A Case Study of <b>North Macedonia</b>”</i> – Dr. Taki Fiti, Dr. Marica Antovska-Mitev &amp; Dr. Tatjana Džambazovska, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Center for Strategic Research „Ksente Bogoev“ – MANU</p> <p><i>“Between Economic Necessity and Perceived Barriers: Employers’ Attitudes and Behavior toward Third-Country Workers in <b>Bulgaria</b>”</i> – Prof. DSc. Rumiana Zheleva, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamelia Petkova, Daniela Radeva, PhD Student, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences</p> <p><i>“Anthropological research on migrations in <b>Bulgaria</b> – status of art and trends”</i> – Assoc. Prof. Mila Maeva, PhD &amp; Assoc. Prof. Petko Hristov, Ph.D, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Discussion</b>
17:00 – 17:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Concluding Synthesis Session and Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>Summary of key findings</p> <p>Questions and answers</p> <p>Closing Remarks by Prof. Dr. <b>Daniela Bobeva</b>, Chair of the Conference Committee</p>