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FOREIGN POLICY DIALOGUES: WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES ON THE ROAD TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

10-12 February 2015

At **Tara**, in the period from **10 to 12 February 2015**, in co-operation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation Institute of International Politics and Economics organised the scientific conference entitled “**FOREIGN POLICY DIALOGUES: WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES ON THE ROAD TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**”.

At the opening of the conference Mr Lutz Kober, Head of the Hanns Seidel Foundation project in Serbia and Montenegro, and Dragan Đukanović, PhD, Deputy Director of Institute of International Politics and Economics, delivered welcome speeches.

After the welcome speeches the conference proceeded its work within the following five working panels:

1. Western Balkans and European Union 2015: Expectations
2. Problems in Western Balkans – Ways to resolve them
3. Western Balkans and EU before the challenges of the future
4. Western Balkans: Internal challenges, and
5. Is there an alternative to European Union for Western Balkan countries?

It was through the statements of the participants as well as through the discussion that the goal of the conference was fulfilled. It was pointed to the present relationships between the Western Balkan countries and the European Union. Also, some expectations of both parties mentioned above were defined. Numerous problems burdening the mentioned relations were emphasised being an obstacle for the Western Balkan countries on their road to European integration. The very term Western Balkans was discussed, e.g. whether it was correct within this context. The changes presently occurring in the European continent were also mentioned and the ways they exerted an impact on the relations between the Western Balkan countries themselves, this also including their relations with the EU.