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# ПРОШИРЕЊЕ ЕУ, ГЕОПОЛИТИКА И РУСКО-УКРАЈИНСКИ РАТ

EU ENLARGEMENT, GEOPOLITICS AND THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINE WAR

КЊИГА САЖЕТАКА

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS** 





ОРГАНИЗАТОРИ





КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈУ ПОДРЖАЛИ





# EU ENLARGEMENT, GEOPOLITICS, AND THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINE WAR

The 2023 Annual International Conference of the Serbian Political Science Association
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### **BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

# PROŠIRENJE EU, GEOPOLITIKA I RUSKO-UKRAJINSKI RAT

Sabor politikologa, Udruženje za političke nauke Srbije
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## KNJIGA SAŽETAKA

### EU ENLARGEMENT, GEOPOLITICS, AND THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINE WAR

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U skladu sa dogovorom o regionalnom predstavljanju i saradnji naziv Kosovo\* je bez prejudiciranja statusa i u skladu je sa Rezolucijom Saveta bezbednosti Ujedinjenih nacija 1244 i savetodavnim mišljenjem Međunarodnog suda pravde o deklaraciji o nezavisnosti Kosova. Svako drugačije navođenje u knjizi sažetaka isključivo je stav autora, odnosno učesnika konferencije.

Ključne riječi: agresija, medijska fragmentiranost, popularna geopolitika, vojna operacija, zarobljeni mediji

### Andrea Matijević

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# REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: WAYS FORWARD AND THE KEY CHALLENGES

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of regional economic cooperation initiatives in the Western Balkans, including the analysis of CEFTA 2006, the Berlin Process, and the "Mini Schengen", i.e. the "Open Balkan" initiative. The paper will also highlight the significance of these initiatives and their importance for the economies in the respective region. The European Union has encouraged regional economic cooperation in the Western Balkans and these initiatives are considered as instruments to improve regional cooperation in general, which is a prerequisite for the region's membership in the EU. Apart from the prospects of EU membership, the author will argue that the benefits of regional economic cooperation are that it can reduce tensions in the turbulent region and also bring tangible economic benefits to the participating economies. However, the overall regional economic cooperation and the development of regional economic integrations should not be motivated by short-term political interests and politically advantageous dimensions of the cooperation, but by the prospect of the future and a belief in the intrinsic values of regional economic cooperation itself. The author will argue that precisely these political interests and the lack of awareness of the importance of regional economic cooperation itself are the main challenges, on which the overall development of regional economic cooperation depends.

Keywords: Western Balkans, regional economic cooperation, CEFTA 2006, Berlin Process, "Mini Schengen", "Open Balkan", European Union

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# EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF THE WESTERN BALKANS DURING THE WAR IN UKRAINE – ILLUSION OR REAL INCENTIVE TOWARDS FULL MEMBERSHIP?

The author examines the existence of specific progress in the Western Balkans (WB) within the process of European integration, taking into account the war in Ukraine and the current status of the European Union (EU) on the international scene. The starting point is that the EU aims to be the most significant actor in the WB, and maintaining such perception in light of the new geopolitical situation is of utmost importance. In this spirit, the EU strives to preserve its role as a transformative force that keeps the region stable and reform-oriented, providing a new