

Editors' word

The Editorial Board has recently made a difficult decision to abandon open access approach due to increasing fund-raising challenges. From now on, JRS will be available either through CEEOL at www.ceeol.com (pay per article) or through an annual subscription. By introducing subscription fee, the Editorial Board aims to ensure survival of JRS but also to move its overall academic quality to the next level. Beginning in 2013, subscription fee for JRS will be 55 Euros per annum (print and electronic copy, postal costs included). Should you or your institutions be interested in receiving JRS in the future please contact us at jrs@fpn.bg.ac.rs. We sincerely hope that this decision is temporary and will be changed as soon as we succeed to secure financial means that will allow us to have an open access model without losing on the overall quality and publication dynamics.

This issue of JRS in most part resulted from academic sessions of the Belgrade Security Forum held in September 2012. The aim of the Forum was to bring academic and policy communities from the field of regional peace-building together in order to widen and deepen the knowledge and practice of security community building. In addition to studying how policy and academic security communities of practice overlap into constellations of practices, the Belgrade Security Forum aimed to build one such constellation. Articles in this issue cover various aspects of security practices, intersecting with different institutional and regional settings to illustrate the validity of this theoretical framework in analyzing international security phenomena.

In the opening article, Jelena Subotic argues there is a direct link between how states remember their respective pasts and the prospects for building of a security community in the Western Balkans. She specifically takes a look at the narratives of past violence and injustice committed during the wars of the 1990s. How the current state of affairs can be changed? Subotic maintains that “efforts to ‘clean up’ the past – through education reform and memorialization projects” are essential in pursuing “regional stability based on sustainable security community”. Following is the article by Florent Marciacq, which discusses multilateral diplomacy of the Western Balkan countries in the OSCE and its Europeanisation by looking at a “declaratory alignment of six Western Balkan states”. Author finds out that the declaratory behavior of those states in the OSCE mostly converges with EU positions, and accordingly offers three explanations: socialization of the Western Balkan countries, emulation of middle-sized states, while noting the role of coercion and persuasion is lesser than initially expected. The article written by Carolina Chavez Fregoso and Nikola Zivkovic deals with the case of Western Sahara as a frozen conflict. Authors underline how important it is to categorize the conflict as frozen for that bears on the possibility of its transformation and subsequent betterment of the security in the region of North Africa. Next up is the article by Alexandra Gheciu who discusses the emergence of a community of practices in the domain of peacebuilding and explores how security practices bring together NATO and the humanitarian community. Despite some initial success in establishing cooperation, the deeper process of building a community of

practice “remains challenging and fraught with tension”. She argues that efforts to construct the community of practice contribute to debates among the very actors in the process regarding their identities and possible actions in the future. This issue’s article section is closing by the piece co-authored by Marko Savkovic and John Karlsrud on the emergence of a civilian capacity community in Serbia dealing with peace support operations. The two authors demonstrate that Serbia, given its experience in Security Sector Reform, can share a relevant experience with multilateral organizations such as UN, OSCE and EU in supporting countries that have emerged from conflict. Last but not least, Uros Zivkovic and Selena Torlakovic review the latest book by Dimitar Bechev *Constructing Southeast Europe: The Politics of Balkan Regional Cooperation* which represents a notable contribution to the understanding of a complex internal and external transformation of the region and its gradual evolution toward a security community after the warring 1990s.

For subsequent issues, editors of JRS are inviting prospective authors to submit papers dealing with regional security from sociology of professions point of view. We are specifically interested in how different professions such as diplomacy, military, police and intelligence contribute to the construction of regions in general and to regional security dynamics in particular.

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