

'West Coast Seminars'
on
Economic and Social Change in Russia and Eastern Europe
(Glasgow, West of Scotland [Paisley campus] and Strathclyde Universities)
Sixteenth Annual Series 2009-2010

"Pre-accession assistance as a mechanism of europeanisation: the effects of CARDS/IPA on administrative capacity in Croatia"

Eleftherios Antonopoulos

PhD student, UACES scholar, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde

**Wednesday 05 May 2010
at 5.30 pm**

EPRC, Strathclyde University, Room 951, Graham Hills Building, 40 George Street

Tea and coffee will be available from 5.00

All Welcome

Abstract

The Community Assistance for Reconstruction Development and Stabilisation (CARDS) has been the main instrument of financial assistance to the Western Balkans until its replacement by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) in 2007. This presentation will discuss the effects of the pre-accession assistance on administrative capacity in the Western Balkans, focusing in particular on the experiences of authorities in Croatia. Capacity will be disaggregated to component elements -human resources, structures, systems and tools- of which the first will be discussed in detail, in the form of an in-depth case study of the EU candidate country of Croatia, based on semi-structured interviews with senior policy-makers working on the EU CARDS instrument, as well as with other key policy-makers, stakeholders and experts. The analysis will also draw on desk research of policy and other grey literature, as well as studies by Croatian academics. The paper will argue that EU pre-accession assistance exerts a positive role in Croatia as a learning process, however its effects on administrative capacity tend to be seasonal or particular to islands of excellence in the public sector and rarely become commonplace as chronic and structural malfunctions of the state administration persist.

Eleftherios Antonopoulos studied for his ptychion at the Panteion University of Social and Political Science in Athens in 2001-2005 (International and European studies), MSc at the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2005-2006 (European Politics and Governance). He is currently a final year PhD student in the European Policies Research Centre at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. His research interests are related to issues of enlargement, pre-accession assistance, administrative capacity building and Europeanization in the Western Balkans as well as EU Cohesion policy. His fieldwork in Croatia has been funded by UACES and his research project is supported by CRCEES and the University of Strathclyde.

for further details please contact
Prof Terry Cox, University of Glasgow
Dr Irene McMaster, University of Strathclyde
Prof Martin Myant, University of West of Scotland

0141 330 2343 t.m.cox@lbss.gla.ac.uk
0141 554 4905 irene.mcmaster@strath.ac.uk
0141 848 3367 martin.myant@uws.ac.uk