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The Report on the research conducted in Serbia and Kosovo in 2011-2012

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dozwolonego użytku.

Integration. The presentation was part of a panel on finance, including public finances. The presentation was met with great interest of participants in the panel. Most of the participants were from non-European countries, and therefore the issue of the functioning of the public finances of the Member State EU integration processes was interesting for the participants. The presentation also alluded to the global economic crisis and the condition of the Polish and the European economy. The paper presented at the conference was published in the international scientific journal “World Journal of Social Science”.

The World Business Institute (WBI) is a multi-disciplinary research, training and publishing institute. Though founded in 2000 as the Business and Computing Institute of Australia, it was reconstituted as the WBI in 2004. The mission of WBI is to serve academic, student, research and business communities as well as to provide and create facilities for improving academic and business performances, standards, and excellence (www.wbiworld.org).

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Thanks to financial support of the Committee of Deans of the UMCS Faculty of Political Science, I visited Serbia and Kosovo three times within the last year. Although each visit had different aims, all were directly related to my research interests concerning the post-conflict peace-building in the Western Balkans, my didactic work at the Political Science Faculty as well as the preparation of my postdoctoral thesis devoted to the issue of the controversial statehood of Kosovo.

The first visit to the Balkans resulted from my participation in the international conference entitled “Belgrade Security Forum: The Balkans and Global Security: What Do We Have in Common, What Sets Us Apart?”, which took place in Belgrade in September 2011. The organisers of the conference were: Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Belgrade Centre for Security Study and European Movement in Serbia. Belgrade Security Forum is a periodic conference which gathers state officials and international relations practitioners. Many ministers, diplomatic representatives and the representatives of international organisations were present at the BSF 2011. During the conference the President of Serbia, H. E. Boris Tadić gave a speech on foreign policy and domestic problems of the Republic of Serbia. The voice of the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Serbia, H. E. Aleksandr Konuzin, controversial and widely discussed in the Serbian media, is also worth mentioning. According to the formula established by the organisers, the experts and the analysts from the think-tanks and universities also participated in the conference. During one of the panels I gave a speech entitled *From Initial Peace-Building to ‘Unexpected’ State-Building: Dilemmas and Results of the International Involvement in Kosovo* devoted to the evolution of the international engagement in Kosovo since 1999, as well as the situation in Serbia and Kosovo before and after the declaration of independence.

In November 2011 I went to Kosovo. The aim of this visit was my research inquiry at the library of the American University in Kosovo (AUK, Pristina) as well as the establishment of

the cooperation with the AUK staff. During the visit I met the authorities of the University and got familiar with the courses and the University's infrastructure. In my opinion, the education model presented at the AUK, *de facto* based on US learning standards, is of the highest quality and could be hardly beaten at the educational market in Kosovo. Observing the functioning of the AUK, a modern University which offers a valuable knowledge to the students, also led me to the general conclusion about the importance of a proper education for Kosovo's society, with the average age slightly over 26 years of age and unemployment rate of 45%. I participated in passionate talks with AUK lecturers and students and had a great opportunity for a direct observation of the situation in Kosovo, which is still uneasy.

In July 2012 I headed to Kosovo once again. That time I did a broad scientific field research related to the statehood of Kosovo, a very controversial issue, discussed by the doctrine of political science and international law. According to planned complex evaluation of the ongoing statehood process, its characteristics, specificity, conditioning and problems, I focused my research on the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, including its administrative, judiciary and legislative bodies, international civilian and military presence in Kosovo, as well as on the functioning of different ethnic groups and religious institutions. In order to cover a possibly broad perspective, I conducted my research in the Central and South Kosovo, as well as in the North, where situation is still very tense and unstable.

During my visit in Kosovo I did several interviews with the officials of the Republic of Kosovo, the representatives of the international society from the International Civilian Office (ICO) and European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo), local politicians, analysts and experts from the Kosovo's think-tanks and non-governmental organisations and ordinary citizens, mainly Albanians and Serbs. The specific situation in Kosovo makes it hard to conduct proper interviews though. Unfortunately, it was not always possible to find appropriate people and arrange interviews with them.

To sum up, I would like to stress that during the visits to Serbia and Kosovo I have conducted a thorough and empirical research and have broadened my knowledge, which has definitely influenced the evaluation and final conclusions for my future postdoctoral dissertation. I have also met many interesting people, established professional contacts and promoted the UMCS Faculty of Political Science abroad.

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