

Past and Present of Western Balkans: between Lustration and Tolerance
TALKING PEACE THE SOCCER WAY

The two day international seminar “Past and Present: Impacts on Democracy”, held during the weekend in hotel “Metropol”, gathered known experts, human rights activists and journalists from the Balkans with the aim to overcome problems originating in the previous decade in the most painless manner. The project of the European Union and the US Agency for International Development provides measures aimed at defining more precisely the role of the individual and the society in the process of democratization, but also provides measures that would help pass and apply the Lustration Act.

The participants in the round table pointed out that the countries in the Western Balkans, such as Albania, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, are still lacking peace and confidence of citizens in legal government, and that the violation of human rights is not eradicated, despite the breakthroughs in the relations of countries that have recently been at war. Speaking of the situation in the neighboring country, one of the participants in the seminar held yesterday, Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, Žarko Puhovski, pointed out that practice resembles “soccer rather than legal arbitration”. Vojin Dimitrijević from the Center for Human Rights in Belgrade, Professor at the University of Sarajevo Dino Abazović, the Professor at the University of Skopje Biljana Vanković, and Ben Andoni from Albania also spoke about lustration and the experiences of other countries in this field.

It is Ethnic Cleansing

“In Croatia, ethnic cleansing replaced lustration, because in the very beginning of democratic changes ideological disqualifications were replaced with ethnic disqualifications”, Puhovski said.