



KRISPOU 9, THESSALONIKI 546 34, GREECE, tel: +30 2310 960820-1 – fax: +30 2310 960822- e-mail: info@cdsee.org

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Failure to investigate public offices in the Western Balkans and consequences for the transition to democracy Publication of the “Dossier: Conclusions and Recommendations”



For 18 months, the CDRSEE * has investigated approaches to implementing lustration in the Western Balkans. Focussing on officials in public offices, the goals of the initiative were to open the files and systems of public administration, examine individual officials' involvement with the one-party rule regimes and generate public debate. The research undertaken led to the major conclusion that a catharsis of public offices did not take place...

The dossier compiles the findings of the cross border research which involved more than 150 experts from the Western Balkans. It includes debates about how democracy and the rule of law could benefit from a lustration process and what form this process could take. Models from Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic were considered as examples... To download this and other publications free of charge and for further information about the research, please visit www.lustration.net

“The 18 months of the project’s implementation and its results have opened a long delayed debate on one of the most sensitive remnants of the totalitarian past. It is the first step towards dealing with that unpleasant and destructive heritage.” (Nenad Sebek, Executive Director CDRSEE)

“For a long time I carried with me the intention to launch a project that would look into a segment of political history of South-East Europe that is still one of the most hidden of the whole past. I am sure that the results of this project - both the scientific knowledge that we gathered and the raising of public awareness about the issue that we induced - will contribute to strengthening democracy and fostering reconciliation in the region. (Dusan Reljic, Senior Researcher, German Institute for International Affairs and Security -SWP; Member of Board of Directors, CDRSEE, and Project Supervisor)

“This successful project has addressed one of the most important issues of the region, implemented a complex undertaking and succeeded in building up a regional network of NGOs under the leadership of the CDRSEE.” (Dr. Magarditsch Hatschikjan, lecturer at the Institute of East European History of the University of Cologne, Project Director)

For further information please contact us at the CDRSEE.

Email: corinna@cdsee.org Tel.: +30 2310 960821

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