



ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ЕВРОПСКЕ СТУДИЈЕ
INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN STUDIES

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CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Relation Between Cultural and Political Legacy of European Union and India in Light of Contemporary Social Changes and Historical Influence of Gandhi's Political Thought

Submission deadline: 30 June 2017

Conference Date: 27 September 2017

Conference Venue

Institute of European Studies

Belgrade, Serbia

Steering Committee

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The main objective of this conference is to contribute to comparative research on historical and cultural legacy of the European Union and India in light of influence of Gandhi's political thought on contemporary social changes. Relations between the EU and India have not yet been sufficiently explored and this conference aims at reinterpreting cultural and political strategies of Mahatma Gandhi and his collaborators within the framework of European and global context.

India's culture is among the world's oldest. On the other hand, India represents one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, driven mainly by its long-term growth prospective, which overcomes the ordinary meaning of "growth". The encounter between various forms of its traditional culture with technological changes enables India to play a constructive and reconciliatory role in balancing and understanding of regional and global affairs. Moreover, the ethical dimension of India's policy, which arises from the historical heritage of Indian political leaders and, in particular, Mahatma Gandhi's efficient political strategy of nonviolent action, enabled peaceful neutralizing and overcoming colonial dependence and successful integration of Indian society. Some contemporary global affairs may be perceived in relation to India and its historical capacities. In particular, both India and the European Union include polyphonic



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and fluid identities and India can offer some solutions to the EU regarding its contemporary challenges and questions of European integration.

Many Western EU member states are skeptical about receiving members from Eastern and Southern Europe, which are thought to represent a different political culture, much more dependent on the state. Also, there is a fear that the admission of new Member States could threaten the coherence of the EU and its united political action at the external and internal level. However, political identity is not dependent on cultural homogeneity as it can be shown on the example of India. India is a country with the highest cultural diversity, with differences that surpasses European span of cultural variations, but that does not affect the sense of national identity and political self-determination. India is good example for EU since it contains people with quite distinct ethnic roots, thousands of languages and many traditional religions. All of that show that a common identity can survive regardless of ethnic, cultural and linguistic heterogeneity and thus it could serve as a some kind of guide for the EU regarding the problem of integration, as India was facing similar problems on its path of integration. Some new insights may also be given by perceiving the topic of European and Indian integration from the perspective of the experience and issues of the former Yugoslav integration.

Keeping with these observations, this year event will mainly focus on finding new insights into:

- the role of culture, ethics and personal enlightenment in politics
- the relations of cultural diversity and political integration
- relation between Gandhi's political discourse and contemporary European public political discourse
- the comparative studies of EU, Indian and Yugoslav processes of integration
- the exploration of EU and India road maps for the next ten years
- the comparative studies of EU, Indian and Yugoslav processes of integration

What to Send

300 words abstracts should be submitted by 30 June 2017; abstracts should include the following information:

a) author(s), b) affiliation, c) email address, d) title of abstract, e) key words

All abstracts should be submitted before June, 30th to: Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Petrović, president of the Scientific Committee aleksandar.petrovic@fil.bg.ac.rs and Dr. Sanja Ivić, IES Research Associate, LOC president sanja_ivic1@yahoo.com