



INSTITUTE  
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Charles University

**‘The Rise and Fall’ of the Open Balkan Initiative: Contested Perspectives,  
Minimal Policy Outcomes**

*A Small (Nation-)States Research Centre Workshop*

**8 March 2024**

*Institute of International Studies, Charles University  
Room C423, Jinonice Campus, U Kříže 661/8, Prague 158 00*

**9:00** Opening Remarks, Adrian Brisku (Charles University)

**9:15-10:45** Panel I – Internal Perspectives: “Proponents” (Chair: Adrian Brisku)

- Enis Sulstarova (University of Tirana) – *The Rise and Fall (and the Rise Again) of the Open Balkan Initiative: Perspectives from Albania*
- Mitko Arnaudov (Centre for Neighboring and Mediterranean Countries, Belgrade) – *North Macedonia in the Open Balkan: Leadership Idealessness or Economic Benefit*
- Marko Kovačević, Aleksandar Milošević, Tijana Rečević and Milan Varda (University of Belgrade) – *Serbia and the Open Balkan Initiative: Exercising Regional Leadership through Projections of Future Self*

**10:45-11:00** *Coffee Break*

**11:00-12:30** Panel II – Internal Perspectives: “Opponents” (Chair: Paolo Pizzolo)

- Ondřej Žila (Charles University) – *The Open Balkan Initiative as the ‘Serbian World’? Discursive Reflections from Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- Bekim Baliqi (University of Prishtina) – *Kosovo’s Position on the Open Balkan: Rejective, Rational or Both?*
- Petr Čermák (Association for International Affairs, Prague) – *Navigating Identity and Geopolitics: Montenegro’s Struggle in Defining its Position on the Open Balkan Initiative*

**12:30-13:30** *Lunch (Sandwiches) in Jinonice Campus*



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**13:30-14:30** Panel II – External Perspectives: “Strong” Supporters (Chair: Adrian Brisku)

- Elton Skendaj (Georgetown University) – *Tepid Support from Afar: US Foreign Policy View of the Open Balkan Initiative*
- Paolo Pizzolo (Jagellonian University) – *The EU Perspective: Between Official Discourse and Persistence Internal Divisions*

**14:30-15:15** Closing Remarks

**19:00** Dinner at *Hostinec Na Slavníku* (Wolkerova 12, Street, Prague 6)