Ljubljana, April 10 2013

24th Slovenian Political Science Days

»Post-Yugoslavia: Polities, Politics, Political Science«
Ljubljana, June 5 – June 7 2013

CALL FOR PAPERS

In 2013, Slovenian Political Science Association will organize the 24th Slovenian Political Science Days. For 23 consecutive years, our annual conference has been an opportunity for political scientists, as well as sociologists, legal scholars, economists and other social scientists to join in a critical discussion of significant sociopolitical issues and to help reinforce identity of the discipline.

The next Slovenian Political Science Days to be held on **June 5 – June 7 at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana**, entitled »Post-Yugoslavia: Polities, Politics, Political Science«, will be all about political processes and the current status of political science in post-Yugoslav countries (see detailed description below). We cordially invite you to take part in an international scientific gathering dedicated to such a broad, significant and complex topic, and in particular, to contribute to the conference program by submitting a paper to be presented in one of the following panels and round tables:

PANELS AND ROUND TABLES OF THE 24TH SLOVENIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE DAYS

Post-Yugoslavia in Political Theory; Coordination: Ljubljana Political Theory Department

Democracy, Human Rights and Parliamentarianism in Former Yugoslav Countries; Coordinator: Drago Zajc (Ljubljana Department of Policy Analysis and Public Administration) Invited: Jerzy Wiatr (ESLA, Warsaw) and TBA

Silent Yugoslavia (Round Table with political scientists from the region); Coordinator: Žiga Vodovnik (Ljubljana Department of Political Theory)

Slovenia's Foreign Policy and Diplomacy in the Area of Former Yugoslavia; Coordinator: Bojko Bučar (Ljubljana Department of International Relations)

Security Processes in the Region Following the Dissolution of Yugoslavia; Coordinator: Jelena Juvan (Ljubljana Department of Defence Studies)

Post-Yugoslavia: Dialogue between Political Theory and Practice; Coordinator: Cirila Toplak; Invited: Siniša Tatalović (University of Zagreb), Čedomir Čupić and Milan Podunavac (University of Belgrade), Sonja Tomović Šundić (University of Podgorica), Igor Lukšič (University of Ljubljana), Ljiljana Mijović (University of Banja Luka), Tanja Fajon (MEP), Andrej Plenković (EP)

»A Friend in Need Is a Friend Indeed«: Foreign Economic Relations in Times of Crisis; Coordinator: Milan Brglez (Ljubljana Department of International Relations)

Education and Active Citizenship: Towards an Inclusive Political Community; Coordinator: Marinko Banjac (Ljubljana Political Theory Department)

How to Teach Political Science; Coordinator: Andrej Lukšič (Ljubljana Political Theory Department)

Former Yugoslav States: a Choice between Democracy and Market Economy?; Coordinator: Student Association Polituss

Paper proposal should include participant's contact information, the title and short description of the paper (up to one page). Deadline for submission of paper proposals is **April 25 2013.** They are to be sent to ***marinko.banjac@fdv.uni-lj.si*** or ***cirila.toplak@fdv.uni-lj.si***. We are welcoming the participation of students and in particular, graduate students in the conference. Student papers of suitable quality will be included in the conference program.

We are looking forward to your active participation in the conference!

President of Slovenian Political Science Association

Cirila Toplak

Post-Yugoslavia: Polities, Politics, Political Science

When Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia engaged in a dissolution process in 1991, it was hardly to anyone's surprise. The process was not only in line with collapse of Communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe, but also a seemingly inevitable result of gradual erosion of federal economic and political structures intensified by nationalist pressures. There was also the appealing prospect of democratic pluralism, market economy, and globalisation. However, at the ideological crossroads following the definite loss of credibility of Communism, the Yugoslavs were persuaded by charismatic leaders at hand to turn back to past nationalist frustrations rather than to look ahead to progressive democratic future in international integration processes. Subsequently, six nation states and one artificial federation (Bosnia-Herzegovina) have replaced former Yugoslavia for a high price in destruction and human suffering during the Yugoslav wars in the 1990s.

Considering the growing disillusion with formal democratic institutions without democratic spirit and with ethnocratic regimes discriminating minorities as well as with a neoliberal version of capitalism destroying the welfare state, the question may be posed two decades after this process had begun to what extent the transition has succeeded, and all the more, what remains to be done to consolidate the transformation of our societies.

The conference attendees will discuss and compare achievements and failures of democracies in the region and will attempt to identify weak points and threats of particular societies. The preconditions and circumstances of further democratic consolidation will be discussed as well as the relation between democratic consolidation and stability in the region. An effort will be made to contextualise legacies of previous authoritarian regimes in the region and their current democratic "hybrids" on the background of prevailing standards identifying functioning democracies. Against this background, fundamental misinterpretations and misunderstandings regarding quality of democracy shall be discussed such as: democracy not equaling rule of everyman; the rule of law is not merely adopted legislation; capitalism does not enrich everyone; political culture does not equal political behaviour; the State is not a hostile abstraction; the judicial system is more than a public service; public services are not parasites of national economies; equality does not mean we are equally entitled; authorities are not automatically elites; elites are not a threat; patriotism does not equal nationalism; representative democracy does not mean that the state becomes the prey of the ruling parties without any accountability; innocent until proven guilty does not mean untouchable.

One of the important outcomes of the conference would be to identify common political issues in the region, which may represent subjects of transfer of theoretical knowledge of political science academia to actual political practitioners, such as: how to mitigate growing public distrust in political institutions and political elites; how to bridge the gap between public expectations regarding democratisation and market economy and political and economic reality; what is the spirit of democratic political culture; what may be alternatives to nationalism as cohesive factor; how to overcome current anomalies of national party systems and the unbalance between branches of power; how to reduce differences in formal status between various minorities and address the dilemma of integration/assimilation; how can further integration of the ex-Yugoslav region be accelerated by regional cooperation in

the area of security, environmental protection, inter-cultural dialogue by joint projects and various forms of exchange etc.