

# Center for Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer (CIPTT), Marie-Curie Grant No. 268268, Combined Periodic & Final Report

## 1. Introduction

The following is a combined periodic and final grant report related to the Marie-Curie IRG No. 268268, Center for Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer ("Center" hereinafter). Due to its content and volume, and in the interest of full disclosure as requested by David Wizel, Head of Sector, this extensive report is provided as a stand-alone document with supporting footnotes and hyperlinks to primary reference sources; these are used as evidence to substantiate the stated facts and conclusions. The facts will remain, regardless. The opinions are solely mine.

## 2. The Broad Context

### 2.1. The Macedonian Political Circus

At this year's July 4 Independence Day celebration, the United States of America Ambassador to Macedonia, Jess Baily, addressed the audience with words of praise for the natural beauties of Macedonia.<sup>1</sup> Many were disappointed that the Ambassador remained silent on the catastrophic state of the political affairs in the country, and that he chose to refrain from articulating a strong political message (*see infra*). Yet, the U.S. Ambassador could not have sent a clearer implicit message to the audience: you people have got lovely nature here, however your society sucks.<sup>2</sup>

Macedonia has been in a state of political crisis since at least 2014. The crisis began to intensify in January 2015, when the opposition released leaked recordings, amid concerns about the government's apparently authoritarian leanings. The New York Times succinctly summarized it: "[t]he national security service, acting on orders from Macedonia's increasingly authoritarian government, was behind the wiretapping scandal that has the small nation on the edge of cracking".<sup>3</sup> Apparently, intelligence chief Saso Mijalkov and Interior Minister Gordana Jankulovska led government attempts to

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<sup>1</sup> "Macedonia" is used in reference to the country known as the Republic of Macedonia. See, e.g., BBC News and New York Times articles, *infra*. Alternative country designations, including FYROM (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) or the Greek description of the Republic of Macedonia, "ΠΓΔΜ" (Πρώην Γιουγκοσλαβική Δημοκρατία της Μακεδονίας, the Greek translation of "FYROM"), are avoided.

<sup>2</sup> See "ЕБР за СПУКМ", Goran Mihajlovski, Сакам Да Кажам, 1 July 2016, at [http://sdk.mk/index.php/sakam\\_da\\_kazam/ebr-za-spukm/](http://sdk.mk/index.php/sakam_da_kazam/ebr-za-spukm/).

<sup>3</sup> See "Macedonia Government is Blamed for Wiretapping Scandal", The New York Times, 21 June 2015, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/22/world/europe/macedonia-government-is-blamed-for-wiretapping-scandal.html? r=0>.

control the press, judiciary and electoral officials by tapping their phones.<sup>4</sup> The government tapped the phones of more than 20,000 people, including politicians, journalists, and religious leaders. The steady stream of recordings revealed corruption and fraud in the upper echelons of government, including mismanagement of funds, nefarious electoral practices, dubious criminal prosecutions of opponents, and even covered-up killings. Members of the governing party appeared to be exerting undue influence on the judiciary and public administration – as well as the media. They have also rigged election results. Indeed, the tapes indicated that the prime minister and several of his allies (predominantly ministers and MPs) apparently had strong and consistent control over most public institutions.<sup>5</sup> Western diplomats said the government's failure to investigate the surveillance scandal casts "serious doubts" on the government's commitment to democratic values.<sup>6</sup> Corruption in Macedonia is rampant.<sup>7</sup> One-third of those surveyed report being asked for a bribe.<sup>8</sup> Eric Gordy, a senior lecturer at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, says recent events amount to local business as usual. "It's something to be worried about if it escalates to the use of violence to stay in power - which is not impossible, but also not likely. But having corrupt governments in the region that abuse people's rights - that's the normal situation."<sup>9</sup>

The scope of the crisis is such that EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said conditions requested that all main political parties in the Balkan nation should address the serious issues at the heart of the crisis.<sup>10</sup> A US embassy statement echoed the appeal, warning against "selective justice". *Id.* Against the backdrop of the Skopje 2014 program - aimed at recasting this small country's capital as the "cradle of civilization" by erecting scores of statues and neo-classical structures – were massive protests, inflamed by the Macedonia's President Gjorge Ivanov pardon of 56 politicians caught up in the massive scandal involving everything from ballot box-stuffing to unauthorized surveillance on an industrial scale.<sup>11</sup> Protesters clashed with riot police in the Macedonian capital after the country's president pardoned 56 top political figures involved in a wire-tapping scandal.<sup>12</sup> The scale of the scandal was of

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<sup>4</sup> See 2015 Macedonian Protest, Wikipedia, at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015\\_Macedonian\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Macedonian_protests)

<sup>5</sup> See Liljana Cvetanoska & Daniel Hough, "Politics in Macedonia has descended into a corrupt soap opera", *The Conversation*, January 7, 2016, at <http://theconversation.com/politics-in-macedonia-has-descended-into-a-corrupt-soap-opera-52826>.

<sup>6</sup> See "Macedonia ministers resign amid phone-tapping scandal", *BBC News*, 13 May 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32718448>. See also "Macedonia Steps Backward", *The New York Times*, 16 April 2015, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/17/opinion/macedonia-steps-backward.html>

<sup>7</sup> See "Macedonia corruption: Fourth night of protests as snap election called", *BBC News*, 15 April 2016, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36058173>.

<sup>8</sup> See Mirjana Spasovska, "На секој трети му било побарано мито", *Radio Slobodna Evropa*, August 30, 2016, at <http://www.slobodnaevropa.mk/a/27954740.html>; the courts, the government, and the parliament are perceived as the most highly corrupt institutions. *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> See "Power struggle in Macedonia", *BBC News*, 6 May 2015, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32612508>.

<sup>10</sup> See "Macedonia crisis: Parliament calls off June poll amid turmoil", *BBC News*, 18 May 2016, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36327240>.

<sup>11</sup> See "Macedonia's protests try to bring down government with a splat", *BBC News*, 8 June 2016, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36468088>.

<sup>12</sup> See "Protest outside president's office over wire-tap scandal", *BBC News*, 14 April 2016, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36041950>.

such magnitude that EU Commission and MEPs said they regret "retrograde steps" in the Balkan nation which are delaying its progress towards EU membership.<sup>13</sup> In light of the above, it is not surprising that the European Commission's 2015 progress report on Macedonia found that the country had regressed in a number of policy areas, most notably the judiciary and freedom of expression.<sup>14</sup>

A natural extension of the political climate in the country was the misuse of the IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance) funds in Macedonia. Once discovered, this led to the European Commission's decision to cut 27.1 million euros from IPA funds for Macedonia; and to plans to cut 50 million euros from the remaining IPA funds.<sup>15</sup> The European Office who is responsible for investigations related to fraud in the European Commission, OLAF, confirmed that they are investigating the misuse of funds from the IPA funds in Macedonia. *Id.* Open calls for the international community to apply pressure and support the protest against the autocratic and corrupt regime are increasing.<sup>16</sup>

In Macedonia, I learned a peculiar and probably unique saying: "Each country has its own mafia; only in Macedonia, the mafia has its own country".

## 2.2. Widespread Corruption

Accordingly, it is not surprising that Macedonia remains in limbo.<sup>17</sup> The country's predicament has raised concerns that it could pull its neighbors into a new Balkan conflagration. It has also revealed the shortcomings of the European Union's approach to the region at a time when Macedonia's path toward EU membership is looking as precarious as ever. *Id.* This is a tragedy not just for the Macedonians who have to live in what is tantamount to an ongoing soap opera, but also for the EU. And there are subsequently clear lessons that the EU needs to learn both in terms of how it seeks to tackle corruption and how it encourages prospective member states to move forward in this area. The EU was expected to be the main driving force for positive reforms in Macedonia, but the accession process has been well and truly stalled. For one reason or another, the EU has been unable to offer positive

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<sup>13</sup> See "EU warns Macedonia leaders as crisis talks cancelled", BBC News, 21 April 2016, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36099892>.

<sup>14</sup> See "COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT: THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, Report 2015", at [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key\\_documents/2015/20151110\\_report\\_the\\_former\\_yugoslav\\_republic\\_of\\_macedonia.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2015/20151110_report_the_former_yugoslav_republic_of_macedonia.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> See "European Commission cuts 27.1 million euros from Macedonia's IPA funds", European Western Balkans, 2 July 2016, at <https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2016/07/02/european-commission-cuts-27-1-million-euros-from-macedonias-ipa-funds/>. See also "EU Halts 27.1 mln euro in payments to Macedonia under IPA programme - report", SeeNews, 4 July 2016, at <https://seenews.com/news/eu-halts-271-mln-euro-in-payments-to-macedonia-under-ipa-programme-report-531419>.

<sup>16</sup> See Vladimir Lazarevik, "Time to Confront Macedonia's Little Dictator", Balkan Insight, April 18, 2016, at <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/time-to-confront-macedonia-s-little-dictator-04-18-2016>

<sup>17</sup> See "Macedonia's Political Mess Lingers Long After Wire-Tapping Scandal", World Politics Review, 8 June 2016, at <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/19008/macedonia-s-political-mess-lingers-long-after-wire-tapping-scandal>.

incentives for Macedonian politicians to undertake reforms, which has given political elites an excuse to maintain the *status quo* and the corrupt practices that have served them well.<sup>18</sup>

Turning specifically to the Macedonian academia, the extent of corruption, nepotism, and plagiarism are much too common.<sup>19</sup> No, it is staggering. Plagiarism of doctoral dissertations and scientific articles is commonplace. While the Minister of Education and Science acknowledges the rampant plagiarism, nothing is being done to deal with this problem.<sup>20</sup>

## 2.2. Dismal Economics

Over the past few years, we extensively wrote about the dismal state of the Macedonian economy, the brain drain, the minimal investment in R&D for innovation, and the impediments to intellectual property and to technology transfer.<sup>21</sup> Neither intellectual property nor technology transfer

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<sup>18</sup> See Liljana Cvetanoska & Daniel Hough, "Politics in Macedonia has descended into a corrupt soap opera", The Conversation, January 7, 2016, at <http://theconversation.com/politics-in-macedonia-has-descended-into-a-corrupt-soap-opera-52826>.

<sup>19</sup> See Hajrulla Hajrullai, "What Do Media, Corruption And Higher Education Have In Common In Macedonia?", Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences (2015), vol. 197: 1188-1194, at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877042815043785>.

<sup>20</sup> See "Plagijati", Kod, Kanal 5, 6 October 2013, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLxi8yLRhXc>. See beginning at 24:00 min, the Minister of Education & Science Spiro Ristovski, acknowledging the existence of plagiarism in the academia. To date, to my knowledge, nothing has been done to mitigate this problem.

<sup>21</sup> See, e.g., Stankovic M, Stankovic B (2013) Technology Transfer in the Republic of Macedonia: Recommendations for Successful Public Policies, State Industrial Property Office, Skopje, Macedonia, pp 1-318; Stankovic M, Angelova B, Janeska V, Stankovic B (2014) Brain Circulation and Spatial Mobility of Knowledge in Southeast Europe. International Journal of Management Science and Information Technology 2013 ICIE: 15-40; Stankovic B (2014) Innovation and Brain Drain. In R&D and Innovation in Western Balkans: Moving Towards 2020. WBC-INCO.NET, Vienna, Austria, pp 306-320; Zaharis N, Stankovic B, Tolia Y (2014) Results of the Pilot Self-Assessment Exercise for the Research and Innovation System of FYR of Macedonia. In R&D and Innovation in Western Balkans: Moving Towards 2020. WBC-INCO.NET, Vienna, Austria, pp 272-289; Stankovic M, Stankovic B (2013) Biotech Research-Tool Patents in Macedonia: Current Legal and Economic Parameters. Review of Central and East European Law 38: 113-139; Stankovic M, Angelova B, Janeska V, Stankovic B (2013) Science and Innovation Policy in Southeast Europe: Brain Drain as Brain Gain, International Journal of Technological Learning, Innovation and Development 6: 262-282; Stankovic M, Stankovic B (2013) Agglomeration Economies and the Role of Universities in the Development of Southeast European Countries. Proceedings of the 6th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Regional Development ICEIRD 2013, Istanbul, Turkey, pp 172-181; Stankovic B, Stankovic M (2013) Macedonia's Innovation Policy for a New Era. Emerging Macedonia 38: 23; Stankovic M, Stankovic B (2013) How Intellectual Property Rights, Licensing and Foreign Direct Investments Shape the Technology Transfer Landscape in Small Developing Countries: Case Study of the Republic of Macedonia. In: Economics of Intellectual Property. Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia, pp 95-107; Stankovic M, Kambovska-Bozinoska M, Stankovic B (2013) Collective Management of Music Copyrights in Macedonia: Climbing Up the Ladder in the Corner of Europe. International Journal of Intellectual Property Management 6: 143-158; Stankovic M, Angelova B, Janeska V, Stankovic B (2013) Brain Drain as Brain Gain in Southeast Europe: Challenges Ahead, Proceedings of the International Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship ICIE-2013, Amman, Jordan, pp 109-118; Stankovic M, Stankovic B, Angelova B, Temelkova J (2012) Is Triple Helix Innovation Possible in Macedonia? International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management 11: 221-233; Todorovska M, Stankovic B, Temelkova J (2011) Triple Helix Innovation Model: Linking the Academia, the Business Sector and the Government - Case Study of Macedonia. Political Thought, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung 33: 51-63.

exist in vacuum. They both require R&D for innovation, human capital, and commitment by the academia, the government, and the private sector. These are non-existent in Macedonia. For example, it is no surprise that the gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) in Macedonia is meager 0.2%.<sup>22</sup>

The unemployment rate is staggering, and the employment prospects are scarce, forcing the youth to emigrate. The certain way to secure a stable well-paying job is to align oneself with the ruling political party, which gives young people little motivation to stay.<sup>23</sup> A recent survey shows that 83.7% of the youth want to leave Macedonia.<sup>24</sup> Similarly, more than 60% of the students of medicine would prefer to leave the country.<sup>25</sup> This is way more than brain drain; it is exodus of a nation. Macedonia is ranked by the World Bank 135th out of 142 countries for brain drain. People leave in droves; they do not think of coming back. They sever the ties, they produce limited or no remittances; it is real detachment.

It was – regrettably – against the above-referenced dismal political/social/economic backdrop, that after 20 years spent in the USA, I attempted in 2010 to go back and contribute to the old country; and to create a foundation for intellectual property and technology transfer. After my previous Fulbright scholarships in 2007-08 and in 2010, my naïve hope was for this to be a continuation of my efforts to promote the status of intellectual property in Macedonia. However, my intent and effort could not have come at a worse time. Having spent countless hours in government committee meetings, interuniversity meetings, talking to the country’s president and to the relevant ministries, I now believe that the Macedonian government will understand and will appreciate the importance of intellectual property and technology transfer when hell freezes over.

### 3. The Narrow Context

#### 3.1. Personal Context

My name is Bratislav Stankovic. A Yugoslavian-born American citizen, I am a registered U.S. patent attorney, a multidisciplinary professor of intellectual property law, science & technology, and the

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<sup>22</sup> *Id.*; see also “WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL R&D STRATEGY FOR INNOVATION: COUNTRY PAPER SERIES FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA”, World Bank, October 2013, at

<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/eca/Western-Balkans-R&D-Macedonia.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> See Isobel Shaddock, “‘Everyone I know talks about leaving’, unemployment forcing youth to emigrate”, Euroviews, at <http://www.euroviews.eu/2016/03/28/everyone-i-know-talks-about-leaving-unemployment-forcing-youth-to-emigrate/>. Official youth unemployment rates vary from publication to publication. Statistics range from as high as 50% reported by the International Monetary Fund to a reported low on the official Macedonian Government’s website of 24.6 %, both in 2015. The Macedonian government appears to be deep in denial about the state of youth unemployment. In a country where political disorder is a common occurrence, young people often feel disillusioned by the current state of affairs.

<sup>24</sup> See “Survey: 83.7% of the youth want to leave Macedonia”, META News Agency, July 15, 2016, at <http://meta.mk/en/survey-83-7-of-the-youth-want-to-leave-macedonia/>

<sup>25</sup> See “Анкета на Медицинскиот факултет: повеќе од 60 отсто од студентите сакаат да ја напуштат Македонија”, 9 Janury 2013, at <http://www.mkd.mk/89010/makedonija/anketa-na-medicinskiot-fakultet/>

author of over 100 peer-reviewed articles, books, laws, and government reports in the areas of comparative patent law, innovation and policy issues involving biotechnology, bioethics, research ethics, commercialization and technology transfer, as well as molecular and space biology. I have taught across disciplines, having been affiliated with several U.S. and European universities. I have taught diverse courses such as "Patent Law" at Loyola University Chicago and "Cell Biology" at North Carolina State University. I am a recipient of numerous teaching & research awards. I have supervised scores of graduate and undergraduate students, and have received millions of dollars in grant support for my research. My research has been funded by the British Council, NSF, NASA, and by the European Commission. I am a recipient of two Fulbright Scholarships for intellectual property law and technology transfer.

My experience includes 5 years as an Intellectual Property Attorney at Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione (Chicago), one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the US. I have over 25 years of experience in academic settings, including five years as a Chief Scientist at the NASA-funded Wisconsin Center for Space Automation and Robotics (WCSAR), University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I was a Principal Investigator for four plant space biology experiments conducted on the Space Shuttle and on the International Space Station.

I have a PhD degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a JD degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, in 2011 I helped the American Bar Association develop a new Law on Innovation for Uzbekistan. Under the auspices of the World Bank, in 2013 I helped Macedonia develop a new Law on Innovation. In 2011-2013 I helped the World Bank develop a R&D Strategy for Innovation in the Western Balkans. In 2009-2014 I served as a Science & Technology Advisor to the President of Macedonia. In 2013 I co-authored a book titled "Technology Transfer in the Republic of Macedonia: Recommendations for Successful Public Policies". In 2011-2012 I served as an Associate Dean for Research at the School of Law, University American College Skopje, Macedonia. In 2012-2013 I served as a Vice-Chancellor for Finance, Innovation & Development at the University of Information Science & Technology in Ohrid, Macedonia. Despite having spent more than a decade in private practice and as a government employee, my research and scholarly output is substantial: with an h-index of 17, I am ranked in the top 5% Social Science Research network (SSRN) authors; and also in the top 15% ResearchGate scholars.

In 2009, working as an intellectual property attorney and a professor of patent law in Chicago, I was earnings in excess of \$200,000 annually.<sup>26</sup> In 2010, I turned down a lucrative offer from a major U.S. university, so that I could work in Macedonia. In contrast, my monthly net salary at UACS (University American College Skopje; first host institution) was 40,000 MK denars (i.e., approximately 650 euros/month); my monthly net salary at UIST (University of Information Science and Technology; second host institution) was even smaller, approximately 30,000 MK denars (i.e., approximately 485 euros/month). That salary reduction, of more than 95%, was a shocker. While I was prepared for some salary reduction, the decrease was extreme. In other words, having made the choice to go and help in

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<sup>26</sup> See evidence in my U.S. tax forms, previously provided to the grant auditor.

Macedonia, my self-inflicted lost income opportunity was in excess of \$200,000 annually. Considering my pre-2010 income in the USA, by working in Macedonia I have suffered approximately \$1 million dollars in lost income.

### 3.2. The First Host Institution

The University American College Skopje (UACS) is a typical example of the dozens of private so-called universities that have mushroomed in the Balkans in recent years, whose primary motivation is to make money. It is no surprise that with low standards and weak state supervision, there is ample room for abuse.<sup>27</sup> UACS extensively uses misrepresentation and false advertising, championed by the Rector Marjan Bojadziev.<sup>28</sup>

It should then come as no surprise that Bojadziev and I disagreed over numerous professional issues, e.g., the UACS advertising campaign, or the treatment of UACS students who plagiarize academic articles. And it should also come as no surprise that Bojadziev attempted to misappropriate REA grant funds as soon as they reached the University. Ample evidence related to his racketeering attempt has been previously provided to REA. I will particularly point out the Excel spreadsheet that Bojadziev e-mailed to me in January 2012 (below). Note that in addition to the UACS 7% overhead, Bojadziev calculated “plata” (i.e., salary) for 9 months for me (i.e., “braco”); he also calculated “plata” (i.e., salary) for 4 months for my wife’s salary (“mimi”); and he charged “zakup kancelarija” (i.e., office rent), thus effectively reducing the 45000 euro grant payment to gross 29352 euros (“za isplata”, i.e., payment). Remarkably, Bojadziev did not charge for my daughter’s daycare expenses!

If my interpretation of the purpose of the grant funds is wrong and if the host institution was supposed to charge office space rent and also charge my wife’s salary, then I apologize.

	Trosoci	Meseci	brutoplata	
Plata	braco	9	1000	9000
Plata	mimi	4	600	2400
Zakup	Kancelarija	12		
Januari 2011/Januari2013)		12	84	1008

<sup>27</sup> See Florian Bieber, Revisiting New Universities In The Balkans: European Visions, UFOs and Megatrends, *Balkanist*, June 14, 2014, at <http://balkanist.net/revisiting-new-universities-balkans-european-visions-ufos-megatrends/>. Given the recent revelations about the rector of Megatrend University’s nonexistent PhD from the London School of Economics, and the awarding of what appears to be a plagiarized doctorate to Serbian Interior Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic, we can only assume that there other dubious (and potentially fictional) academic degrees floating around out there, flaunted by high-ranking officials across the region.

<sup>28</sup> See, e.g. the listing for Marjan Bojadziev at <http://www.uacs.edu.mk/home/faculty/>, claiming that he is “Harvard Business School Alumni” (*sic*). In contrast to what he claims (Harvard alum), his Harvard education is limited to two one-week long executive education courses taken in 2008 and 2009; see full CV at <http://old.uacs.edu.mk/userfiles/files/CV%20NEW/English%20CV/CV%20-%20Marjan%20Bojadjiev%20en.pdf> .

Vkupno trosoci zaklucno so 01.2013				12408
Preadavanja Braco postdiplomski				840
saldo				11568
Priliv				44000
UACS	7%			3080
Neto				40920
Za isplata	BRUTO			29352

I refused Bojadziev’s racketeering attempts. Because I refused, Bojadziev asked me to “take the grant and leave the university”. This is what I did.

### 3.3. The Second Host Institution

In the Summer of 2012, I was recruited by Ninoslav Marina, the Rector of the University of Information Science & Technology (UIST); I joined the university (second host institution). Little did I know that it was a huge circus, and that at the time (August 2012) Marina was full-time employed as a lecturer in Switzerland. With approval of the upper echelon of ruling party (Prime Minister, Minister of Education & Science) he was allowed to only briefly show up at UIST for a couple of days, approximately every other month; unbelievably, to date.<sup>29</sup> A reasonable person would wonder why the UIST management was set up that way, how is that possible, and why it was allowed. It is not surprising; in line with everything else in Macedonia, the ruling party managed to keep Marina as a puppet who is controlling UIST, to thus maintain yet another of their nodes of political influence; to be able to promote ill-conceived educational policies; and to expand the number of voters. This story deserves another book chapter for another day.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>29</sup> See Ninoslav Marina web page at HE-ARC, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, at <http://people.he-arc.ch/contact.php?id=311780511> ; see “Swiss-Dutch Innovation Matchmaking Event”, 2-3 March 2015, at <https://www.b2match.eu/swissdutchactiveliving/participants/5> ; see “First brokerage event EEN Argentina – ICT sector”, 24-25 June 2015, at <https://www.b2match.eu/ictarg2015/participants/38> ; see “Innovative Smart Systems Networking Conference”, April 1, 2014, at <https://www.b2match.eu/innovativesystems2014/participants/219> ;

<sup>30</sup> The surrealism of UIST may be difficult to comprehend. Imagine that at your alma mater (university) the rector (chancellor) worked in some distant country, and would only show up every other month for a couple of days, would walk around offices, and then leave back for that distant country. Imagine any university run like that; I know you can’t.

UIST is a uniquely dysfunctional institution of higher education. In a provincial city in the southwest corner of Macedonia, the university serves the purpose of being a local hub of pseudo-university-professors from the corrupt ruling party. Not surprisingly, my arrival at UIST was quickly met with resistance from the locals; with a few notable exceptions, they largely do not know what the terms education, science, and research actually mean – but they know full well how to plagiarize other scientists’ work; their technique has been appropriately dubbed “copy-paste science” by an investigative reporter in the country.<sup>31</sup>

At UIST, I stood out as by far the most experienced and most accomplished professor. Shown below is a table that was prepared in 2014 by colleague Prof. Dragi Kimovski, and which depicts the scientific activity of UIST professors and researchers, expressed through articles published in journals with impact factor, and the total impact factor (IF). Note that my contribution equals approximately 2/3 of the total university’s IF output; it speaks for itself.

No.	Researcher	Papers with IF	Total IF
1	Bratislav Stankovic	52	81.23
2	Francesco Volponi	7	17.6
3	Toni Stojanovski		9.72
4	Ninoslav Marina		8.1
5	Tolga Yalcin	2	2.8
6	Dragi Kimovski	2	1.5
7	Carlo Ciulla	2	0.42
8	Mahdi Khosravy	1	0.4
9	Eustra Zhupa	0	0
10	Elena Hadzieva	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>121.77</b>

I enthusiastically tried my best at UIST. I established the Center, taught students, gave grant-writing lectures to students and colleagues, taught them methodologies for writing papers; I taught about entrepreneurship, spin-offs, university startups; I enjoyed educating and sharing my experience whenever possible. For a brief period of time in 2012-2013, I served as a Vice-Rector for Finance, Investment & Development at UIST. However, when it became apparent that I am an independent

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<sup>31</sup> See “Plagijati”, Kod, Kanal 5, 6 October 2013, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLxi8yIRhXc>. See in particular segment starting at 11:20 min, which in a startling way describes how UIST prof. Ustijana Rechkoska-Shikoska verbatim copied more than 70% text and figures from a Japanese research article, morphing the map of Japan into a map of Macedonia, replacing the names of Japanese cities with names of Macedonian cities, and then publishing the plagiarized piece as her own research article. See also, beginning at 24:00 min, the Minister of Education & Science Spiro Ristovski, acknowledging the existence of plagiarism in the academia. To date, to my knowledge, nothing has been done to mitigate this problem. In fact, Ustijana Rechkoska-Shikoska was recently re-elected into an Associate Professor at UIST. It is of no surprise that she is but one of the needed pseudo-academic pawns of the ruling party.

professional who will stand for principles, hard work, and ethics; who will take no nonsense; and who owes nothing to the local feuds; my fortune at UIST rapidly started to decline. In the spring of 2013 the position of a Vice-Rector for Finance, Investment & Development at UIST was not renewed; I was removed from the managerial position; I continued to be an Associate Professor, with only a base salary of approximately 30,000 MK denars (i.e., approximately 485 euros/month).

In early 2014 I was expected to advance into the position of a Full Professor. I realized that I could take advantage of the recent amendments to the Law on Higher Education; these were supposed to enable advanced promotion to professors who have been project leaders at one of the top 50 universities in the world, according to the Shanghai ARWU list. Surprisingly for the Macedonian Ministry of Education & Science, I am one of those few. In line with those amendments, on April 23, 2014, I was elected Full Professor at UIST. Two weeks later, the ~~dogs~~ inspectors of the Ministry of Education & Science were sent to rescind my election; which they did, also supported with a left verbal instruction that another attempt at my promotion into a Full Professor should not be made. This was done on ambiguous procedural grounds, and is in contrast to the Law on Higher Education.<sup>32</sup> This event alone deserves a separate book chapter.

Also attempting to taking advantage of another aspect of the recent amendments of the Law on Higher Education, I realized that I was qualified to receive a salary increase based on my being an outstanding researcher. The Law amendments were supposed to provide a 30% salary increase to professors who have been project leaders at one of the top 50 universities in the world, according to the Shanghai ARWU list. Again surprisingly for the Macedonian Ministry of Education & Science, I am one of those few. I submitted a request in the spring of 2013. After receiving no response and after an extensive run-around that lasted a couple of years, I hired an attorney to help me claim the cumulative amount of over 10,000 euros salary increase that I should receive in accord with the amendments. My attorney cannot even get a response from the newly retained UIST attorney Dodevski (who is also the lead attorney for the top echelon of the ruling party). I have since received legal advice that filing a lawsuit in Macedonia will most likely be a futile and costly exercise, because the corrupt courts will probably not rule against UIST, and will not uphold the rule of law.

## 4. Project Outcomes

The long-term goal of the project relates to promotion and enablement of innovation, intellectual asset management, fostering the creation of new technologies, tools of innovation, innovative SMEs, and paradigms in Macedonia. The Center has a strong intersectoral aspect, bringing together experts from diverse areas such as law, economics, science, business, and education, thus combining a unique set of partner skills. The Center's research results served as a basis for the creation of relevant policy proposals (both on macro and micro level) and legislation for successful technology transfer. The work of the Center includes the following: proposals for specific liberal trade policies;

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<sup>32</sup> Copies of the relevant documents are on file with the undersigned; and of course, with UIST.

proposals for adequate Intellectual Property Rights policy; proposals for adequate stimulation of FDI. The Center disseminated its research results to relevant regional and international institutions dealing with technology transfer and economic growth issues.

The Center served several general functions, including:

1. Carrying out interdisciplinary research to understand the role of intellectual property policies and rules in contributing to creativity and innovation in the country. In particular, the Center examined if and how intellectual property contributes to broad social goals such as increased health, cultural development, access to information and economic growth. The Center collaborated with stakeholders, the President's Cabinet and the Ministry of Education and Science to streamline relevant legislation, facilitating the creation and activities of technology parks and R & D incubators;
2. Collaboration with the Macedonian Industrial Property Office to enhance understanding of intellectual property and innovation systems within the business community;
3. Participation in the creation of a well-functioning NIS, incorporating key actors and activities in the knowledge production and absorption processes necessary for innovation to take place;
4. Facilitation of the protection and management of intellectual property arising from university research, and licensing intellectual property rights to industry for the ultimate benefit of people. One of the primary goals is to catalyze the creation of new companies based on university created technologies; to develop a strategy and program to stimulate the development of SMEs.
5. Served as a hub for formal linking and networking of the IPRs stakeholders (foreign and domestic companies and investors; IPR holders; public and private universities; public agencies) in Macedonia, through semi - annual and ad hoc meetings;
6. Enhanced understanding of intellectual property rights and innovation systems among students at the undergraduate, graduate and executive level;
7. Disseminated the results of its research through workshops and conferences;
8. Through already established professional networks, the Center established partnerships with regional and intergovernmental intellectual property rights, technology transfer, R & D, and economic development stakeholders – with the aim of transferring best practices in the field of IPRs management and TT.

If only someone would listen.

#### **4.1 Dissemination activities/Scholarship produced**

Despite all institutional obstacles, the amount of work, research, and scholarship that was produced for the duration of the grant is enviable, as evidenced throughout this document. It includes 4 published books/monographs, 20 published research articles, almost 30 presentations in diverse forums, 5 awarded grants, and countless training/coaching/mentoring sessions. Specifically:

##### **4.1.1. Published books and monographs:**

1. Stankovic M, Stankovic B (2013) **Technology Transfer in the Republic of Macedonia: Recommendations for Successful Public Policies**, State Industrial Property Office, Skopje, Macedonia, pp 1-318.
2. Stankovic B, Stankovic M (2013) **Guide for SMEs: Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Albania**, Crimson Capital, pp 1-28.
3. Boutillon I, Erstling J, Pepeljugin V, Stankovic B, Stankovic M (2012) **Patent Law**, Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia, pp 1-221.
4. Stankovic B, Stankovic M (2012) **Guide for SMEs: Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Kosovo**, Innovation Centre Kosovo, pp 1-20.

One of the major accomplishments of the Center is the publication of the book "Technology Transfer in Macedonia: Recommendations for Successful Public Policies". Published by the State Industrial Property Office, this is the first-of-its-kind book that uses comprehensive, evidence-based approach (conducted survey of high-tech companies in Macedonia), to deliver innovation-related country-level policy recommendations.

If only someone would listen.

#### 4.1.2. Published journal articles and book chapters

1. Vian A, Stankovic B, Davies E (2015) **Signalomics: Diversity and Methods of Analysis of Systemic Signals in Plants**. In: *PlantOmics: the Omics of Plant Science*. Springer, pp 459-490.
2. Davies E, Stankovic B (2015) **Plant Cytomics: Novel Methods to View Molecules on the Move**. In: *PlantOmics: the Omics of Plant Science*. Springer, pp 413-438.
3. Plaseska-Karanfilska D, Popovski Z, Stankovic B (2015) **Recombinant DNA Technology and Genetic Engineering**. In: *Current Biotechnology and Applications*. European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association, pp 261-272.
4. Link B, Busse J, Stankovic B (2014) **Seed-to-Seed-to-Seed Growth and Development of Arabidopsis in Microgravity**. *Astrobiology* 14: 866-875.
5. Stankovic M, Angelova B, Janeska V, Stankovic B (2014) **Brain Circulation and Spatial Mobility of Knowledge in Southeast Europe**. *International Journal of Management Science and Information Technology* 2013 ICIE: 15-40.
6. Stankovic B, Stankovic M (2014) **Educating About Biomedical Research Ethics**. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy* 17: 541-548.
7. Stankovic B (2014) **Innovation and Brain Drain**. In *R&D and Innovation in Western Balkans: Moving Towards 2020*. WBC-INCO.NET, Vienna, Austria, pp 306-320.
8. Zaharis N, Stankovic B, Tolia Y (2014) **Results of the Pilot Self-Assessment Exercise for the Research and Innovation System of FYR of Macedonia**. In *R&D and Innovation in Western Balkans: Moving Towards 2020*. WBC-INCO.NET, Vienna, Austria, pp 272-289.

9. Stankovic M, Stankovic B (2013) **Biotech Research-Tool Patents in Macedonia: Current Legal and Economic Parameters**. *Review of Central and East European Law* 38: 113-139.
10. Stankovic M, Angelova B, Janeska V, Stankovic B (2013) **Science and Innovation Policy in Southeast Europe: Brain Drain as Brain Gain**. *International Journal of Technological Learning, Innovation and Development* 6: 262-282.
11. Stankovic M, Stankovic B (2013) **Agglomeration Economies and the Role of Universities in the Development of Southeast European Countries**. *Proceedings of the 6th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Regional Development ICEIRD 2013, Istanbul, Turkey*, pp 172-181.
12. Stankovic B, Stankovic M (2013) **Macedonia's Innovation Policy for a New Era**. *Emerging Macedonia* 38: 23.
13. Stankovic M, Stankovic B (2013) **How Intellectual Property Rights, Licensing and Foreign Direct Investments Shape the Technology Transfer Landscape in Small Developing Countries: Case Study of the Republic of Macedonia**. In: *Economics of Intellectual Property*. Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia, pp 95-107.
14. Stankovic M, Kambovska-Bozinoska M, Stankovic B (2013) **Collective Management of Music Copyrights in Macedonia: Climbing Up the Ladder in the Corner of Europe**. *International Journal of Intellectual Property Management* 6: 143-158.
15. Stankovic M, Angelova B, Janeska V, Stankovic B (2013) **Brain Drain as Brain Gain in Southeast Europe: Challenges Ahead**, *Proceedings of the International Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship ICIE-2013, Amman, Jordan*, pp 109-118.
16. Stankovic M, Stankovic B, Angelova B, Temelkova J (2012) **Is Triple Helix Innovation Possible in Macedonia?** *International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management* 11: 221-233.
17. Davies E, Stankovic B, Vian A, Woods A (2012) **Where Has All the Message Gone?** *Plant Science* 185: 23-32.
18. Stankovic B, Stankovic M (2012) **The Importance of Research Ethics for Medical Law**, Fifth International Research and Practice Conference in Medical Law. L'viv, Ukraine, *Proceedings*, pp 329-335.
19. Todorovska M, Stankovic B, Temelkova J (2011) **Triple Helix Innovation Model: Linking the Academia, the Business Sector and the Government - Case Study of Macedonia**. *Political Thought, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung* 33: 51-63.
20. Stankovic B, Stankovic M (2011) **The Selfish Patent**. *Case Western Reserve University Journal of Law, Technology & the Internet* 3: 67-92.

#### 4.1.3. Selected Presentations

1. **Arabidopsis Rocket Science: How We Grew Plants on the International Space Station**, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (2015)
2. **Will My Intellectual Property Make Cents?**, World Bank, & Pioneers of the Balkans, Tech Innovators and Startups Workshop, keynote speaker, Skopje, Macedonia (2015)

3. **Brain Circulation in Southeast Europe**, Annual Scientific Conference “Social, Political and Economic Change in the Western Balkans”, Regional Research Promotion Programme, University of Fribourg, Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe, Ohrid, Macedonia (2015)
4. **Public Interest Intellectual Property in Developing Ecosystems of Innovation**, NIH Fogarty International Center, Washington, DC (2014)
5. **Superhelix of Innovation in Southeast Europe**, World Bank, Law, Justice & Development 2014, session on Human Capital Formation in Southeast Europe, Washington, DC (2014)
6. **Smart Specialization in the Eye of the Beholder**, CreativeMED Conference, Athens, Greece (2014)
7. **Towards a superhelix of innovation**, Towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region, WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference, Vienna (2014)
8. **The triple helix and Macedonia**, TAIEX “Workshop on Triple Helix - Tool for Innovation Enhancement”, Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission & Ministry of Economy, Skopje (2013)
9. **Brain drain as brain gain in Southeast Europe: challenges ahead**, International Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship ICIE-2013, Amman, Jordan (2013)
10. **How to create innovation driven economy?** Macedonia Global Investment Summit, Skopje (2013)
11. **Agglomeration economies and the role of universities in the development of Southeast European countries**, Sixth International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Regional Development ICEIRD 2013, Istanbul (2013)
12. **Brain drain as brain gain in Southeast Europe**, World Bank Conference “Jobs, Welfare and Inclusion in the Western Balkans”, Becici, Montenegro (2013)
13. **Intellectual property strategies for startups**, Balkan Venture Forum, Sofia (2013)
14. **Do Macedonian SMEs participate in triple helix innovation?**, Keynote speaker, USAID project “Business Without Borders” Conference, Business Startup Center Bitola (2012)
15. **Strategies for optimizing research & innovation through technology transfer**, Council on Health Research for Development, Fair Research Contracting meeting, Rockefeller Center, Bellagio, Italy (2012)
16. **Transforming science into innovative business**, Balkan Venture Forum, Belgrade (2012)
17. **Patenting life: politics of innovation**, Central European University, Budapest (2012)
18. **Politics of biotech patents**, Fifth International Research and Practice Conference in Medical Law. L’viv (2012)
19. **The importance of research ethics for medical law**, Fifth International Research and Practice Conference in Medical Law. L’viv (2012)
20. **Innovation beyond the information technology age**, Balkan Venture Forum, Skopje (2012)
21. **The top 10 intellectual property issues for startups**, Balkan Venture Forum, Skopje (2012)
22. **Why patent?**, American Corner Tetovo (2012)

23. **Patenting life: politics of innovation**, University of Pavia (2011)
24. **Triple helix innovation model: linking the academia, the business sector and the government**, Eleventh Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organizations, Universidad San Pablo, Madrid (2011)
25. **Innovation on a shoestring budget**, Fourth International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovations and Regional Development, Ohrid (2011)
26. **Macedonia: country of counterfeiters or innovators?**, American Chamber of Commerce IP Rights Conference, Skopje (2011)

#### 4.2. Additional Grants Awarded

My work and research activities were supported with additional competitively-secured funding from the European Commission, and from other sources. These include the following.

1. 2014-2016 **Bilateral Bulgarian- Macedonian Science & Innovation Cooperation grant**. I was a Co-Principal Investigator on a 2014-2016 bilateral Bulgarian- Macedonian Science & Innovation Cooperation grant. Jointly coordinated through the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the goal of this project was to determine bilateral country-level and academy-level priorities for R&D for innovation and entrepreneurship, with the aim of fostering growth and employment in both Bulgaria and Macedonia. This effort is used as a seed grant to develop substantially larger cooperative grant proposal(s), for submission to appropriate Horizon 2020 program calls.
2. 2013-2016 **TransnAtional Accelerator NeTworks Acceleration (ATALANTA)**. European Commission FP7 consortium grant for delivering cross border services to innovative SMEs and entrepreneurs. I was a Co-Principal Investigator on a 2013-2016 European Commission-funded FP7 consortium grant for delivering cross-border services to innovative SMEs and entrepreneurs, aimed to drive innovation, facilitate commercialization of technology and technology transfer, and support entrepreneurship on a transnational European level – TransnAtional Accelerator NeTworks Acceleration (ATALANTA).
3. 2013-2014 **Venture Initiative in the Balkan Europe (VIBE)**. European Commission-funded Southeast European transnational program for creating an ecosystem of innovators and entrepreneurs in the Balkans. I was a Co-Principal Investigator on a 2013-2014 European Commission-funded cooperative Southeast European transnational program aimed at creating an ecosystem of innovators and entrepreneurs in the Balkans, with development of a startup accelerator program for 120 Balkan SMEs – Venture Initiative in the Balkan Europe (VIBE).
4. 2012-2013 **Judicial Strengthening Project in Macedonia**. Capacity and sustainability building program with professional judicial organizations/associations. Initiative supported by USAID. I was a Co-Leader on a 2012-2013 USAID-funded coaching-heavy initiative for organizing and implementing capacity and sustainability building program of the country's professional judicial associations.

5. 2012-2013 **European Mobile and Mobility Industries International Investment Programme / EMMINVEST** grant. This was a European Commission-funded Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme grant to develop and supervise a pan-European coaching program, implementing a coaching platform with 100 SME entrepreneurs for innovative mobile and mobility startups.

For the duration of the M-C IRG No. 268268, my work and research was – individually or through consortia – supported with awards exceeding €3 million in European research grants. Importantly, but for this Marie-Curie IRG award, I would not have been involved in these activities jointly aimed at creating a regional, Southeast European ecosystem of innovation.

### **4.3. Teaching Activities**

4.3.1. At UACS I taught one-semester-long undergraduate courses in: (1) Intellectual Property Law; (2) Copyright Law; (3) Business Law; and I also taught graduate level courses in: (1) Methods of Research & Analysis and (2) Intellectual Property Law. The number of students enrolled was between approximately 30 and approximately 100 students per course taught.

4.3.2. In 2012 I presented a seminar on “Grant Writing 101: Show Me the Money!” to interested colleagues and students at the University American College in Skopje.

4.3.3. At UIST I taught one-semester-long undergraduate courses in (1) iIntroductory Biology, (2) iAdvanced Biology, and (3) iGenetics. The number of students enrolled was between approximately 30 and approximately 100 students per course taught.

4.3.4. At UIST I also single-handedly and from scratch prepared a brand new Masters level curriculum in Computational Biology.

4.3.5. In 2014 I presented a seminar on “Successful Grant Writing” to interested colleagues and students at UIST.

4.3.6. In 2013 I prepared and administered Hands-On Patent Prosecution Training seminar series for the State Industrial Property Office in Macedonia. I developed seminar materials and delivered lectures, and educated approximately 25 Macedonian patent attorneys to draft and prosecute international (PCT – Patent Cooperation Treaty) patent applications. To my knowledge, this is the only boot camp for Patent Cooperation Treaty patent drafting ever held in the country.

4.3.7. In 2011-2012 I provided lectures in Patent Law in the LL.M. program in Intellectual Property Law, which leads to a joint degree between the University of Strasbourg, France & University Ss. Cyril & Methodius, in Skopje. I also mentored LL.M. students.

4.3.8. In 2011 I provided lectures for the Board of European Students of Technology (BEST) summer course “Leadership in Innovative Technology” at Ss. Cyril & Methodius University, in Skopje.

#### 4.4. Other Dissemination, Education/Outreach, and Professional Service Activities

4.4.1. To further disseminate the Center's output, to increase the mentorship and training opportunities for innovative startups, and to enable hands-on efforts for the promotion of intellectual property and technology transfer in Macedonia, I co-founded a non-profit foundation: Balkan Unlimited Foundation (<http://balkanunlimited.org/>). Balkan Unlimited is a non-profit foundation with the goals to (i) support innovation and entrepreneurship in the Balkans, (ii) promote economic and cultural connections in the Balkans, (iii) and support social innovation. The foundation was created with the vision that innovation and positive human values are the foundation of a knowledge-based society. We wanted to build on those aspects to integrate the Balkans in the progressive global trends of innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem; and to raise in prominence the emerging Southeastern Europe (SEE) as an attractive investment and business hub. In just a few years, Balkan Unlimited has acquired cross-continental project execution coordination experience. The results of this are the circuit of Balkan Venture Forum events, the flagship regional venture event for startups<sup>33</sup>; and a number of regional and European startup coaching programs and most importantly boosting an effective regional community of innovative entrepreneurs. We believe that this community and the remarkable entrepreneurs that drive it, are the way forward towards economic and human development for the SEE region. One of the major activities of Balkan Unlimited, and supported by the Center, is the Balkan Venture Forum for innovation, which has become the largest venture capital, private equity and investment forum in the region; e.g., it is hailed by TechCrunch as one of the top 10 annual events for startups in Europe.<sup>34</sup>

4.4.2. In 2014 we created SuperFounders (<http://superfounders.com/>), an international support platform for localized full-service startup acceleration and community development programs in Southeast Europe. SuperFounders provides coaching and mentorship, and efficiently deploys capital and resources for innovation support, to achieve maximum growth. SuperFounders will source and accelerate over 400 fast-growing companies during a period of 8 years, within a network of 8 Southeast European hubs. These activities are in part supported by the EC-funded ATALANTA project (*see supra*).

4.4.3. In 2016 I served as an invited reviewer and Scientific Committee Member for the 9th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovations & Regional Development (ICEIRD 2013), Thessaloniki, Greece.

4.4.4. In 2014 I assisted PIIPA (Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors) in Washington DC, with its restructuring process, and as a Chair of the then-existent Strategic Planning and Transition Committee. My assistance to PIIPA was performed with prior UIST knowledge and approval.

4.4.5. In 2013-2014 I led the efforts to prepare methodological guidance for policy-makers and implementing bodies on how to prepare for and how to design, draft and implement a national Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3) in Macedonia. This was a Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET initiative, aimed to enhance integration of the Western Balkan countries in

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<sup>33</sup> See Balkan Venture Forum startup success stories at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnwI22Dgyl> , <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-vx78cClO0>, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyOcqt5QyZl>.

<sup>34</sup> See "For Your Diary — The Best European Events For Startups In 2014", at <https://techcrunch.com/2014/01/05/for-your-diary-the-best-european-events-for-startups-in-2014/>

the European Research Area. Funding was provided by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. Some of that work has been published; additional articles are being prepared for publication.

4.4.6. In 2013-2014 I served as a member of the Review Committee for the “Goce Delchev” annual best national scientific achievement award, helping the Macedonian Academy of Sciences & Arts and the Ministry of Education and Science, in Skopje.

4.4.7. Since 2013 I have been serving as an Editorial Board member for Advances in Robotics & Automation, OMICS Publishing Group.

4.4.8. In 2013 I served as an invited reviewer for the “2013 Law & Science Informal Symposium” at the University of Pavia, Italy.

4.4.9. In 2012-2013 I served as a member of the Advisory Body, Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation, World Bank & Macedonia’s Ministry of Education and Science. I participated in the development of a regional R&D strategy for innovation.

4.4.10. In 2012-2013 I served as a reviewer for the Best Young Scientist Presidential Annual Award in Macedonia.

4.4.11. In 2013 I served as an invited reviewer and Scientific Committee Member for the 6th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovations & Regional Development (ICEIRD 2013), Istanbul, Turkey.

4.4.12. In 2012 I served as an invited member of the Informal Panel of Thought Leaders, European Commission’s SME Instrument 2020 – “Fueling the Future and Growth of Europe’s Most Promising Innovative Companies”. Twenty invited thought leaders drafted a set of recommendations that were presented in Brussels to members of the European Parliament.

4.4.13. In 2012-2013 I served as a member of the American Bar Association-United Nations Development Programme (ABA-UNDP) International Legal Resource Center (ILRC) team. I participated in drafting Uzbekistan’s Law on Innovations and Innovation Activity.

4.4.14. In 2012 I served as an invited reviewer for the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT).

4.4.15. In 2012 I served as a member of the Working Group tasked with review and improvement of Macedonia’s Global Innovation index. The work was done for the Ministry of Information Society and Administration of Macedonia.

4.4.16. In 2012 I served as an Expert Consultant and Jury Member at MOBIP 2012, the Pan European Partnership and Investment for Mobile Services, in Thessaloniki, Greece; initiative supported by the European Commission.

4.4.17. In 2011-2014 I served as a member of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Council of the Government of Macedonia. I participated in the preparation of the national innovation and entrepreneurship strategy and action plan.

4.4.18. In 2011-2013 I served as a reviewer for the Maugeri Foundation Prize Competition, European Center for Law, Science and New Technologies (ECLT), University of Pavia, Italy.

4.4.19. In 2011-2013 I served as an invited reviewer for the U.S. Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) Grants, awarded by the American Councils for International Education in South Eastern Europe, in Skopje.

4.4.20. In 2011-2012 I served as a Co-Team Leader for a World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) project on Patent Landscape of Plant Salinity Tolerance-Related Technologies with Special Focus on Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

4.4.21. In 2011-2012 I served as a member of the Macedonia's Ministry of Education and Science Task Force to improve innovation and patent protection in Macedonia, with the program "PATENT.MK".

4.4.22. In 2011 I served as a mentor at the Youth Entrepreneurial Service (YES) Foundation- organized startup weekend in Skopje.

4.4.23. In 2010-2014 I served as a member of the Intellectual Property Rights Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in Macedonia.

4.4.24. In 2009-2014 I served as a Science & Technology Advisor to the President of Macedonia. This was largely *pro bono* work.

#### 4.5. Legislative Drafting

I also participated in relevant legislative and policy drafting, as follows.

4.5.1. Under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in 2011 I helped the American Bar Association (ABA) develop a new Law on Innovation for Uzbekistan. This was *pro bono* work.

4.5.2. Under the auspices of the World Bank, in 2013 I helped Macedonia develop a new Law on Innovation. I was providing key expert advice for the drafting of the new Law on Innovation. This was *pro bono* work.

4.5.3. In 2011-2013 I helped the World Bank develop a R&D Strategy for Innovation in the Western Balkans. This was *pro bono* work.

#### 4.6. Public Outreach / Media Appearances

I provided numerous invited interviews in daily newspapers and periodicals, public and private TV stations, as well as on the national radio in Macedonia. I have also provided interviews for various international media outlets.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> See Mico Tatalovic, "Q&A: Science adviser to the president of Macedonia", SciDevNet, 14 April 2014, at <http://www.scidev.net/global/policy/feature/q-a-science-adviser-macedonia.html>, an interview that summarizes

## 5. Specific Answers to the Program Manager's Questions

Question 1: Whether CIPTT functions as a clearinghouse and database repository (as planned)?

Answer 1: Yes, to the extent possible under the circumstances (see *supra*). In light of the above, it is self-evident that the function of CIPTT as a clearinghouse and database repository was maximized to the extent possible. If there is a dearth of technologies to protect with intellectual property and to transfer, it follows that there will be limited activity of the Center in that aspect.

Question 2: Whether the various performance indicators and benchmarks were reached (see section 3.2 of the work plan)?

Answer 2: Yes, to the best extent possible. See *supra*.

Question 3: How the analysis of existing TT and economic development, public sector technologies, private sector technologies, and human capital were performed, and what working models and policy proposals followed (see section B3.3 of the work plan), the impact of project in the last two years?

Answer 3: Extensive analyses of the above were performed, and these have been published in a myriad of peer-reviewed articles and books. Of course, these are much voluminous to be individually described herein. See, e.g., the extensive analyses and policy recommendations in the evidence-based book "Technology Transfer in the Republic of Macedonia: Recommendations for Successful Public Policies, 2013, Stankovic M, Stankovic B, State Industrial Property Office, Skopje, Macedonia, pp 1-318"<sup>36</sup>; the data paint a realistic picture that is opposite from the government propaganda.

Question 4: The website address provided in the first periodic report is no longer functional (<http://ciptt.uist.edu.mk/>) – can you clarify?

Answer 4: To my knowledge, the above-referenced website address appears to be functional. As well, I am not the UIST webmaster.

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the challenges the nation faces in improving its science base and harnessing the power of science to improve its economy; see also Michael Slezak, "Asteroid soil could fertilise farms in space", *New Scientist*, 16 December 2014, at <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22430004-900-asteroid-soil-could-fertilise-farms-in-space/>; and see "Dobra Ideja" 2 SEZONA PROFESOR BRATISLAV STANKOVIC, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43ZN08gTUUc>.  
<sup>36</sup> A printed copy of the book was previously given to the Program Manager Laurent Correia. PDF file of the book is also freely downloadable from the Social Science Research Network, at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2354953>.

Question 5: The books and monographs, and quite a few of the other publications provided, are mostly identical to the ones provided in the first report. Have there been no additional ones in the past two years?

Answer 5: The scholarly output of the grant is described *supra*. The number of books/monographs published was **FOUR**. The number of articles/book chapters published was **TWENTY**. The number of formal presentations was almost **THIRTY**. The education/outreach activities were countless. Expressed in absolute terms, the project outcome is enviable. Expressed in relative terms, considering all obstacles encountered, the project success is outstanding, immeasurable, priceless. If my scholarly output was any greater than this, today I would have been a tenured professor at Harvard University. Stated another way, if other awarded M-C IRG grants have achieved this or comparable level of work, research, scholarship, and education/outreach output, then the M-C IRG program must be doing very well.

Question 6: There seems to be no change from the previous report in 2014 (and indeed from the initial proposal) on your professional status (Associate Professor and S/T advisor to the president of FYROM). Can you clarify, as this is the main purpose of the re-integration grant?

Answer 6: Answered *supra*.

Question 7: The periodic report indicates some teaching activities, however, as this is identical to the first periodic report, some more detail is needed. Please elaborate on the classes taught, to what level of students, how often, and where?

Answer 7: At UACS I taught undergraduate courses in: (1) Intellectual Property Law; (2) Copyright Law; (3) Business Law; and I also taught graduate level courses in: (1) Research Methods and (2) Intellectual Property Law. At UIST I taught undergraduate courses in: (1) *i*Introductory Biology, (2) *i*Advanced Biology, and (3) *i*Genetics. The number of students enrolled was between approximately 30 and approximately 100 students per course taught. At UIST I also single-handedly and from scratch prepared a brand new Masters level curriculum in Computational Biology. In addition, in 2011-2012 I provided lectures in Patent Law in the LL.M. program in Intellectual Property Law, which leads to a joint degree between the University of Strasbourg, France & University Ss. Cyril & Methodius, in Skopje. I also mentored LL.M. students. After teaching that academic year, I was never invited back; some of my former students expressed that they were not surprised, because I was “a couple of classes above the professors there”. I also provided hands-on patents prosecution training (in the form of boot camp for Patent Cooperation Treaty patent drafting) for the State Industrial Property Office, where I trained approximately 25 patent law attorneys. I provided informal training and mentorship to hundreds of students and young entrepreneurs via coaching, training, and mentoring in preparation for the Balkan Venture Forums, and also for the startup accelerator program of the Pioneers of the Balkans.

Question 8: Provide more information about any mentoring of students (how many, what subject, ...)?

Answer 8: Formal training to hundreds of students. Informal mentoring/coaching/training of hundreds of students. See *supra*.

Question 9: Provide details on the independence and support from the host institute, focusing also on the change of host institution that was made and if/how this has affected your project?

Answer 9: Answered *supra*.

Question 10: Provide details on specific collaborations established in the context of the project?

Answer 10: Answered *supra*.

Question 11: Detail if the additional activities and grants have allowed you to focus full time on CIPTT in Macedonia, as required by the grant. Specifically, can you elaborate on the position you hold as Chair in Strategic Planning and Transition Committee (Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors (PIIPA)) in the USA?

Answer 11: Answered *supra*. The latter part of the question is also based on an incorrect presumption: in fact, I do not presently hold a position as Chair in Strategic Planning and Transition Committee (Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors (PIIPA)) in the USA. It was in 2014 when I assisted PIIPA with its restructuring process, as a Chair of the then-existent Strategic Planning and Transition Committee. My contribution to PIIPA was performed with prior UIST knowledge and approval.

## **6. In Lieu of Conclusion**

Macedonia is a little country in the corner of Europe where life (and by extension education, science, R&D for innovation, technology transfer, intellectual property) is largely disconnected from the rest of the modern world. Pseudo-science, corruption, and nepotism in the academia are an accepted way of life. Numerous so-called university professors are mere mouthpieces and puppets of the ruling party. Intellectual property and technology transfer are of interest to the local feuds as much as is last year's snow.

This Marie-Curie IRG enabled the establishment of the first-of-its-kind interdisciplinary Center for Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer in Macedonia. The grant stands out as the first and to date only award of a Marie-Curie IRG in the country. It enabled me to continue my earlier research on intellectual property, technology transfer, and innovation policy in Macedonia, started during my two earlier Fulbright Scholarships in 2007 and 2010. The Center was established with the aim to promote a strategic focus on innovation and commercialization of research, knowledge transfer, and intellectual asset management. The Center aimed to catalyze the positioning of Macedonia as a place of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth built upon an economy in which knowledge and innovation are the primary tools. The Center's activities are distinctly multidisciplinary, addressing issues at the

intersection of law, science, economics, business, and education. Despite the myriad of obstacles, the deliverables of the work supported by this grant – measured by effort, scholarly output, and impact – exceeded most if not all of the stated objectives. Much of the research efforts of the Center were directed towards developing economic growth public policy solutions that should take the human development of the country to a higher level, and should help reverse brain drain in the Western Balkans. These were delivered by the undersigned PI. However, the long-term impact of the Center's efforts is doubtful in light of the present political and economic climate.

I note that the grant was awarded to UACS in December 2011. Due to a combination of UACS obstacles and UIST incompetence, I received the first grant payment in August 2013 (evidence provided to the grant auditor); that was almost TWO YEARS AFTER UACS RECEIVED THE FUNDS FROM THE EC. Because I was not paid a single penny under the grant for the period December 2011- July 2013, I was financing the Center's activities during that period out of my own pocket, in reliance on the awarded grant. Because the second grant payment was reduced by the amount of €10.416,67 (due to Bojadziev's refusal to sign Form C), it was a major challenge to conduct reasonable fiscal planning.

A disconcerting aspect of the grant has been REA's silence with respect to the UACS misconduct. I respectfully maintain that it would be shameful for the EC to be bullied by an individual who is trying to get revenge for his unsuccessful racketeering attempt that includes EC grant funds. I repeatedly requested REA's action, so that I would finally receive the total amount of funds (including the €10.416,67 held in limbo due to Bojadziev's refusal to sign Form C) that were awarded to me under the grant; albeit with a delay of several years. That will not only bring closure to this outstanding issue, but is the only outcome that will establish the necessary legal, fair, and just precedent for possible future administration of similar grants; and to send a signal to the Western Balkan feuds that such misconduct and fraud will not be tolerated by the EC. The choice is, of course, yours – but the facts will remain the same, regardless.

It is my wish to disseminate the contents of this report through various channels, as I hope that my experience is used and shared as a case study, so that it achieves as broad impact as possible. Similarly disappointing variants of my story have been echoed on the internet, in the blogosphere, and in the few remaining non-government-controlled media outlets, by a handful of capable diaspora researchers who have experienced similar fate(s) when attempting to intellectually contribute to their former country. I now have first-hand experience at understanding why few, if any at all, successful scientists choose to return to the Macedonia after years of building professional reputation overseas. In this case, both REA and I had the intent of supporting competitive research activities in a professional environment that was neither willing nor ready to appreciate the potential. Despite my *bona fide* effort, it was patently impossible for me to contribute my full academic/scientific potential, or to become professional integrated in a society and an academic subculture that promotes plagiarism, corruption, and nepotism.

My cautious hope is that, in my lifetime, I will witness a revolution and a restitution of values, and the establishment of a meritocracy-based society with the rule of law governing in my native country of former Yugoslavia, now Macedonia. However, without real democracy and without the rule of law, EC projects that aim to foster innovation in Macedonia will largely result in waste of taxpayers'

monies. My recommendation is that the EC conducts an evaluation of the ongoing EC-funded innovation and technology transfer projects in the Western Balkans, to assess the real contribution; and to scrutinize and see through the waffle and the perpetually regurgitated but never truly intended goals/aims/promises. In order to coherently discuss economic development through the prism of intellectual property and technology transfer, there is a need for institutions that function in ways they are supposed to: to deliver adequate education, and to help catalyze synergies of the private sector and universities that generate R&D and innovations, which are then adequately protected with intellectual property and translated into commercial products. My research shows that none of the above factors is present in Macedonia (and generally in the countries of the Western Balkans). Accordingly, I respectfully recommend that the EC should reconsider spending any more money on innovation, business incubators, and technological parks in Macedonia at present.

I could go on and, but you get the point: the grant activities were not carried out *in vacuo*; the success of the grant – as substantiated *supra* – is mutual; the trials and tribulations are solely mine. They have only made me more grateful for my freedom and life in America. It is also why I go back. I am happy to finally be at home.

Dated: August 31, 2016, in New York, NY.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "BStankovic". The letter "B" is stylized with a vertical line through it.

**Bratislav Stankovic, PhD, JD**