



Evangelical Theological Seminary Osijek, Croatia



Osijek Institute for Mission Studies

Central and Eastern European  
Association for Mission Studies



# Conversations on Theological Education, Church and Mission in Balkan contexts: Trends, Challenges and Needs

## Programme (draft)

**Tuesday, April 10, 2018**

16.00-17.30 Arrival and registration

18.00-19.00 Dinner

**19.30-20.30** Welcome: **Anne-Marie Kool, ETS-OSIMS**  
Greetings: **Peter Kuzmič, Dean of ETS**

**Opening lecture: Bernard Ott, "Trends, Challenges and Needs in  
Evangelical Theological Education in Europe"**

Response 1: Nick Nedelchev, Bulgaria

Response 2: Corneliu Constantineanu, Romania

**Wednesday, April 11,  
2018**

08.30-09.00 Devotions

**09.00-10.00** **Conversations I: *Trends, Challenges and Needs in Theological  
Education, Church and Mission - Church perspectives***

*What are the trends, challenges and needs in theological education, church and mission in your context, from the perspective of your church? What needs do you see in terms of continuing education of pastors, church workers and church members/professionals? How do you see that church leaders and yourself could support the theological education of the next generation -- beyond sending them off to a school? How could you offer these students opportunity to gain practical experience while attending classes and then to be placed in ministry settings upon graduation?*

**Moderator: Greg Thellman**

***Panellists:*** (contribution of **7 mins per person** - please prepare **500 words written** summary)

1. Damir Špoljarić, Evangelical Pentecostal Church, Osijek, Croatia
2. Saša Nikolinović, Evangelical Church, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. Alfred Golloshi, Albania Baptist Union, Tirana, Albania



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4. Goran Saitović, Evangelical Church Leskovac, Serbia
5. Zoltan Vegel, Protestant Christian Church, Sombor, Serbia
6. Venco Nakov, Pentecostal Church, Kočani, Macedonia

**10.00-10.30 Discussion**

10.30-11.00 Coffee break: *Chatting about trends, challenges and needs in theological education, Church and mission*

**11.00-12.30 Conversations II: Trends, Challenges and Needs in Theological Education, Church and Mission: Perspectives from Theological Institutions**

*What do you consider as trends, challenges and needs in theological education, church and mission in your particular context, from the perspective of theological institution or bible school? How can you as theological institutions help local churches engage theological students in practical ministry?*

**Moderator: Peter Penner**

**Panellists:** (contribution of **7 mins per person** - please prepare **500 words written** summary)

1. Čedo Ralević, Niš, Serbia - Balkan Theological Seminary
2. Perry Stepp, Zagreb, Croatia: *Non-accredited programs, and challenges of (Hybrid) distance learning and on offering online courses* - Biblical Institute Zagreb
3. Tomislav Dobutovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina: Bible Institute of the Christian Baptist Church in Bosnia-Herzegovina
4. Tibor Almási, Budapest, Hungary: *BA and MA Theological Education of professionals* - Baptist Theological Academy
5. Greg Thellman, Osijek, Croatia - Evangelical Theological Seminary
6. Nick Nedelchev, Sofia, Bulgaria - St. Trivelius Higher Theological Institute
7. Corneliu Constantineanu, Arad, Romania: *Theology and Life in the Balkans: Recovering the Public Dimension of Faith* - Intercultural and Interconfessional Study Centre, Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad

**12.00-12.30 Discussion**

12.30-14.00 Lunch break

*Pick and choose: Exhibition for theological educations and formation*  
Theological schools present their programs and materials in a form of exhibition

**14.00-15.30 Conversations III: Innovative programs in theological education and spiritual formation**



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**Moderator: Parush Parushev**

***Panellists:*** (contribution of **7 mins per person** - please prepare **1000 words written summary**)

1. Marvin Oxenham, United Kingdom, EEAA: *Character education*
2. Fyodor Raychynets, Ukraine, UETS: *Transformational learning and leadership in theological education*
3. Mária Gusztin, Hungary: *The case of the European Nazarene College*
4. Nolan Sharpe, Croatia: *Relevance of training professionals in Theology of Work perspectives* (with reference to Dražen Glavaš)
5. Nina Jankucić, Croatia: *Theological formation for Roma Pastors* (Roma Networks)
6. David Kovačević, Croatia: *ETS Biblical and Pastoral Studies: contextual church identity*
7. Katharina Penner, Germany: EAAA, *Resourcing learning in alternative education*
8. Anne-Marie Kool, Croatia: ETS: *Osijek Doctoral Colloquium as a framework and platform for advanced theological education and cooperation.*

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

**16.00-17.00** ***From Competition to Cooperation and Partnership***  
Small groups discussions

**17.00-18.00** ***Conversations IV: Future of Evangelical theological education, pastoral and professional formation in Europe***

**Moderator: Corneliu Constantineanu**

**Lecture: Peter Penner, Germany: *Future of Evangelical theological education, pastoral and professional formation in Europe***

Response 1: Parush Parushev, Bulgaria

Response 2: TBC

**18.00-18.30** **Discussion**

**18.30-18.45** ***Closing: First steps for continuing the conversation***

*Closing prayer: Matej Lazar Kovačević (Church of God, Croatia)*

19.00-20.00 Dinner



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*Informal get together in the Mennonite Room*

**Thursday, April 12,  
2018**

08.00-09.00 Breakfast

Departures

**Program Committee and co-organisers:**

1. Corneliu Constantineanu, Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Director of Intercultural and Interconfessional Research Centre, Romania
  2. Rev. Tomislav Dobutovic, Christian Baptist Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina
  3. Greg Thellman, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Osijek, Croatia
  4. Anne-Marie Kool, Osijek Institute for Mission Studies, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Osijek, Croatia
  5. David Kovacevic, Deacon Church of God in the Republic of Croatia, Vice Dean for Student Affairs, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Osijek, Croatia.
  6. Peter Kuzmic, Dean, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Osijek.
  7. Parush Parushev, Evangelical European Accrediting Association, Langham Trust, Bulgaria
  8. Kosta Milkov, Director Balkan Institute for Faith and Culture, Skopje, Macedonia
  9. Peter Penner, Director of Advanced Studies of the Euro-Asiatic Accrediting Association, Germany
  10. Rev. Damir Spoljaric, The Evangelical Pentecostal Church in the Republic of Croatia
  11. Perry Stepp, President of Biblical Institute (Biblijske Institute), Zagreb, Croatia
  12. Julijana Tesija, Osijek Institute for Mission Studies, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Osijek, Croatia
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