# Project coordinator: **Asst. Prof. Dr. Marijana Klemenchich**

**Topic:** The Role of Multilingualism in the Formation of Individual and Collective Identity in the Balkans

**Team Members:**

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| **Summary Description** | The project examines how multilingualism influences individual and collective identity in the Balkans. It uses interviews, linguistic analysis, and research to understand how language diversity shapes identity expression. The project also considers the impact of language policies and societal attitudes on identity formation. By offering recommendations, it aims to promote linguistic diversity and inclusive identity practices in the region.  Aims:  To investigate the relationship between multilingualism and the formation of individual identity within the Balkan context, considering the linguistic diversity and historical-cultural complexities of the region.  To explore how multilingualism contributes to the construction of collective identity among communities and nations in the Balkans.  To examine the socio-cultural factors underlying the negotiation and expression of identity in multilingual contexts in the Balkans.  To assess the role of language maintenance, language shift, and language revitalization efforts in shaping individual and collective identities among various linguistic communities in the Balkans. |
| **Needs analysis for this research** | Lack of Understanding: There is a significant gap in understanding the interplay between multilingualism and identity formation in the Balkans. Despite the region's diverse linguistic landscape and complex historical context, there is limited comprehensive research exploring how multilingualism influences individual and collective identities. |
| **Target Groups** | Researchers and Academics: Scholars specializing in linguistics, sociolinguistics, anthropology, cultural studies, and Balkan studies will benefit from the project's findings and contribute to the academic discourse surrounding multilingualism and identity in the Balkans.  Policy Makers and Government Officials: Policymakers at local, regional, and national levels, as well as government officials responsible for language policy development and implementation, can use the project's recommendations to inform inclusive language policies that promote linguistic diversity and cultural inclusion.  Educators and Language Professionals: Teachers, educators, and language professionals involved in language education and language planning in the Balkans will find insights from the project useful for designing curriculum and language programs that acknowledge and celebrate linguistic diversity. |
| **Objectives** | Conduct a comprehensive literature review to synthesize existing research on multilingualism, identity formation, and Balkan studies, providing a theoretical framework for the project.  Utilize ethnographic methods, including interviews, participant observation, and focus groups, to gather qualitative data on individuals' experiences of multilingualism and identity in the Balkans.  Employ linguistic analysis techniques to investigate language use patterns, code-switching practices, and language attitudes among multilingual speakers in the Balkans.  Analyze the role of multilingual education policies, language ideologies, and linguistic landscapes in shaping the linguistic repertoires and identities of individuals and communities in the Balkans.  Explore the influence of migration, globalization, and geopolitical dynamics on the dynamics of multilingualism and identity formation in the Balkans.  Develop a comparative analysis of different linguistic communities within the Balkans, considering factors such as language contact, language dominance, and language maintenance strategies. |
| **Main Activities** | 1. Research – primary data collection  2. Research – secondary data collection  3. Project research papers  Panel Discussion:  The Role of Multilingualism in the Formation of Individual and Collective Identity in the Balkans  Panelists:  Professors from the Institute for Macedonian Literature, Experts in the field of Culture and Identity  Professors from UKIM – Macedonian Language Department and English Language Department  Expert in the Culture area: Prof. Dr. Sonja Stojmenska Elzeser, Institute for Macedonian Literature, UKIM  Expert in the Culture area: Prof. Dr. Maja Tosik, Institute for Macedonian Literature, UKIM  Expert in the Language area: Prof. Dr. Eleni Buzarovska, English Language Department, Faculty of Philology, UKIM |
| **Research Project Impact** | - Publishing 1 research article  - One panel discussion related to the projects’ topic  - Fostering inclusive identity practices  - Improving interethnic relations |
| **Timeline** | Literature Review: July **(1 month)**  Survey Design and Data Collection: September **(1 month)**  Data Analysis: October **(1 Month)**  Report Writing:  **November (1 months)**  Publishing: **December (1 month)** |
| **Budget** | The budget should be defined. |

**Panel Discussion Plan for panel 2 in the fall semester 2024**

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| **Topic** | The Role of Multilingualism in the Formation of Individual and Collective Identity in the Balkans |
| **Participants** | **Moderator**: Facilitates the discussion, introduces topics, and manages time.  **Panelists**: 3 experts from relevant institutions  Professors from the Institute for Macedonian Literature, Experts in the field of Culture and Identity  Professors from UKIM – Macedonian Language Department and English Language Department, Experts in the Language area  Expert in the Culture area: Prof. Dr. Sonja Stojmenska Elzeser, Institute for Macedonian Literature, UKIM  Expert in the Culture area: Prof. Dr. Maja Tosik, Institute for Macedonian Literature, UKIM  Expert in the Language area: Prof. Dr. Eleni Buzarovska, English Language Department, Faculty of Philology, UKIM |
| **Duration** | The panel discussion will last for 90 minutes, including opening remarks, panelist presentations, interactive discussion, and audience Q&A |
| **Agenda** | 1. Opening Remarks (10 minutes)  2. Panelist Presentations (60 minutes)  3. Q&A (15 minutes)  4. Closing Remarks (5 minutes) |