

GUEST EDITOR'S NOTE

Esteemed colleagues, dear readers:

You have probably become acquainted with "Security Dialogues" in the last five years. Since its first issue in June 2010, the journal has gone through a steady process of improvement. As of today, we are happy to present the first special issue. I hope that there will be many more in the future - and with good reasons too.

This time the Institute for Security, Defense and Peace Studies celebrates two significant anniversaries. Throughout the whole 2015, we have marked our 40th anniversary in different forms and at numerous events. This special volume is supposed to be a height of a long and successful year. The second jubilee refers to the journal itself: by reaching its fifth birthday, "Security Dialogues" may be declared well-established scholarly journal that fulfills all academic and legal criteria for an international journal (in accordance to the legal requirements set by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia).

Most of the time in the 40-year long period has been devoted to teaching, designing modern curricula and to accommodation to the higher education reforms but more importantly to the societal and other changes in the country and on a global level. The last decade is the period in which new generation of young scholars and researchers, together with their older colleagues, have opened the doors of international academia. The special issue of "Security Dialogues" is the best proof that speaks for itself: a fine combination of foreign and Macedonian scholars, of more mature and younger researchers, which jointly contributed to its exquisite quality and considerable volume. On behalf of the Institute's academic staff, we would like to thank all our foreign colleagues and guests that made our celebration even more special.

It has been great honor to be the first guest editor of this special issue - not only because I belong to the older generation of professors of the Institute but more significantly, because I was the first editor-in-chief of this journal. From today's perspective, I remain assured that the Institute is going in the right direction - so we may all look forward to its 50th anniversary. "Security Dialogues" is going to be the best testimony of that growing academic potential, and for our openness to further international academic cooperation.

Respectfully yours,
Prof. Dr. Biljana Vankovska