



Ss. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIOLOGICAL, POLITICAL AND
JURIDICAL RESEARCH - SKOPJE



International Scientific Conference Challenges in Transforming Society

Book of Abstracts

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REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
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Inequality and the State - Economic Inequality as a Growing Problem of Society

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Inequality has become one of the most current topics of today's age. In the last fifty years, there has been a noticeable increase in inequality by country, and it can be noted that there is inequality in income, but that inequality in wealth is far greater. High inequality negatively affects the economy, for example inhibits entrepreneurship and creates social economic crises, then leads to a whole series of factors that slow down economic growth. Then, other factors lead to inequality, such as new technologies, sluggish institutions, organizational practices, trade unions, culture and power relations, educational and health systems, as well as the way of living. Furthermore, the unemployed are in an unequal position compared to the employed. This touches on the issue of employment policy in countries, which constitutes one of the most important segments of economic policy. For these reasons, public policy makers should pay more attention to these factors, as they affect inequality. It is a well-known fact in economic theory that governments can reduce inequality through progressive taxation, and vice versa. Then through the welfare state, because if the welfare state is more effective, inequality is also lower. An example of this is the Nordic countries, which base their welfare system on social democratic values. Furthermore, the increasingly frequent occurrence of crises burdens state finances, and the ubiquitous problem of population aging in the world burdens pension systems, which influence the increase in inequality. The above points to the complexity and topicality of this topic, which is why one of the goals of the United Nations is to reduce inequality. In order to present the results of this research, the method of analysis and case study was used, and the USA, one of the most influential countries in the world, is cited as an example. The paper was written within the framework of the Research Program of the Institute of Social Sciences for the year 2026, supported by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation Republic of Serbia.

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