

Round Table – Expert Discussion: The Social Dimension of EU’s Enlargement Policy

Venue: Rue Joseph II 166, Brussels
Wednesday, 20th November 2019
10.00-12.00

Dear Madam or Sir,

Criticism about of the social dimension of the EU's enlargement policy is common in Western Balkan societies. Enlargement policy over the past years has prioritized the creation of functioning market economies' and supply-side skill acquisition strategies. Social issues, in contrast, have not been on the top of the agenda. Recent FES research found that social exclusion remains widespread – citizens' political, economic and social participation is inadequate.

Last year, the European Commission published a new enlargement strategy for the Western Balkans announcing “a new reinforced social dimension”. Its delivery was foreseen in the realms of employment, education, and healthcare. Placing increased emphasis on social matters is good news in a region affected by significant economic and social inequalities. But will this pledge materialize?

On behalf of the ***Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and IRIS network***, we kindly invite you to participate in an expert roundtable on enlargement, social inclusion policies and migration related challenges in the Western Balkans.

Current research findings will form the basis of a two-hour exchange on some key if neglected aspects of European integration in the Western Balkans. The event will bring together representatives of the Commission, MEPs, experts, trade unions, and civil society to discuss how a reinforced social dimension in enlargement policy can be brought to life.

The event will take place in Brussels, Rue Joseph II 166, on **20th November 2019** at **10.00 a.m.** We kindly ask you to confirm your participation by **17th November**. Please complete the following **registration link**: <https://www.fes-europe.eu/events/event-registration/>



AGENDA
ROUND TABLE – EXPERT DISCUSSION
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Time	Agenda	Speaker
10:00	Welcome remarks	Felix Henkel , FES Regional Dialogue Southeast Europe Maja Bobić , Social Dimension Initiative
10:10	Enlargement Policy and Social Change in the Western Balkans Presentation of the study	Input Mirna Jusić , Analitika, Co-author of the study
10:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EU Enlargement of the WB6: How Does a Social Dimension Fit In ■ Education in the WB6: Great Expectations, Poor Outcomes ■ The WB6 Job Insecurity Landscape ■ Social Protection and Healthcare in the WB6 	Roundtable Discussion Moderation: Nikolina Obradović , University of Mostar
10:55	Chapter 19 & 24 Negotiations	Input
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ "Annual (re)integration" Shadow report covering negotiation Chapter 19 and 24 in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Albania 	Maja Bobić , author of the report and CSOs social service providers from Iris network
11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Iris network in WB, from policy to implementation from the perspective of local organization 	Roundtable Discussion Moderation: Jelena Anđelić , IRIS network
11:35	The Future of Welfare in the Western Balkans	Input
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financing welfare state ■ Inequality and social mobility ■ Community based services 	Žarko Šunderić , Center for Social Policy
11:50		Roundtable Discussion
12:10	The Policymaker's Take-away	Felix Henkel , FES Regional Dialogue Southeast Europe

