

*Webinar*

## **State Capture: Bridging the Gap between Diagnostics and Practical Solutions in the Western Balkans**

30 October 2020

### **Agenda**

**10:00 CET** *Welcoming remarks*

**Aleksandar Kržalovski**, Director, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation / SELDI Coordinator, North Macedonia

**10:05 CET** *Key note: The European Rule of Law Future of for the Western Balkans*

**Viola von Cramon-Taubadel**, MEP, Greens/EFA Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the European Parliament's rapporteur for Kosovo

**10:20 CET** *Piloting State Capture Diagnostics in the Western Balkans: Risks, Policy Options and the Future of EU Enlargement*

**Dr. Aleksandar Gerganov**, Senior Analyst at the Center for Study of Democracy / SELDI Knowledge and Outreach, and Assistant Professor at the Institute Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

**Giulio Veneri**, Head of the Centre of Thematic Expertise (CoTE), Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

**Misha Popovikj**, Researcher, Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis', North Macedonia

**11:20 CET** *Discussion*

*Discussion Questions:*

- How to safeguard EU investments in the Western Balkans? What are the key takeaways for the EU Enlargement process from the first EU Rule of Law report? What are the country specifics of the judiciary and media capture, and how could these phenomena be countered?
- How could the anti-trust policies in key sectors (energy, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and construction) be enhanced?
- What should be CSOs' role in supporting reforms – e.g. how to ensure transparent funds' distribution of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans? What tools could policy-makers and CSOs utilise to tackle the state capture challenge?



*Panelists:*

**Ilir Ciko**, Investment and Trade Policy Researcher, Albanian Center for Economic Research

**Lejla Deronja Suljic**, Project Manager, Centers for Civic Initiatives, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Alban Hashani**, Executive Director, Riinvest Institute, Kosovo\*

**Biljana Pejović**, Deputy Executive Director, Center for Democratic Transition, Montenegro

**Misha Popovikj**, Researcher, Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis', North Macedonia

**Nikola Cuckic**, Project Assistant, Centre for Contemporary Politics / European Western Balkans portal, Serbia

*Moderator:* **Ruslan Stefanov**, Director of the Economic Program, Center for Study of Democracy / SELDI Knowledge and Outreach Coordinator, Bulgaria

**12:30 CET**     *Closing*

*\* The designation "Kosovo" is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*



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