

Hidden Economy in the Western Balkans: Challenges and Lessons for Economic Recovery and Convergence

Webinar

20 November 2020

Agenda

10:00 CET *Welcome remarks*

Ruslan Stefanov, Director of the Economic Program, Center for Study of Democracy / SELDI Knowledge and Outreach coordinator, Bulgaria

Snezana Kamilovska Trpovska, Project Officer, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation

Javier Menendez Bonilla, Team Leader, Thematic Support - Economic Development, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission

10:10 CET *Hidden Economy in the Western Balkans 2020: Recent Trends and Policy Options*

Daniela Mineva, Senior Analyst, Economic Program, Center for Study of Democracy / SELDI Knowledge and Outreach coordinator, Bulgaria

10:30 CET *Sharing of Best Practices: Holistic Policy Approach and the Western Balkans Network Tackling Undeclared Work*

Professor Colin Williams, Professor of Public Policy at the Sheffield University Management School

Nand Shani, Team Leader, Employment and Social Affairs Platform, Regional Cooperation Council

Professor Adnan S. Efendic, Professor of Economics at the School of Economics and Business (SEBS), University of Sarajevo

11:00 CET *Discussion*

Discussion topics:

- What were the effects of COVID-19 on the regional hidden economy and undeclared work?
- Are distance work, gig economy and collaborative platforms more prone to informality and can we expect a rise?
- What does the EC need to know in terms of trends in informality regarding EU's support to the Western Balkan's economic recovery and resilience?
- What are the latest trends in tackling informality that the region can learn from?

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

11:30 CET *Closing*



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